

Bihar District Gazetteers



सत्यमेव जयते

MONGHYR

By

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PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT
SECRETARIAT PRESS, BIHAR, PATNA.

1960

[Price—Rupees Ten only.]

PREFACE.

The first District Gazetteer of Monghyr by Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S., based on the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of North Monghyr (1905-7) was revised in 1926. The revised edition was a book of 277 pages with appendices.

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of re-writing and publishing the District Gazetteers. In the last few decades there had been very many basic changes in the district and the country. The old series of District Gazetteers although brilliantly written and replete with facts were meant more or less to be an administrator's hand-book and had a limited objective. They were written from a particular angle and cannot meet the present requirements. With independence in the country, the very character of the State Government has changed. There is also scope for the reappraisal of many old features in the light of data now made available. It was felt that the District Gazetteers had to be entirely re-written.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi, has recently taken up the work of publishing four Central Volumes of Gazetteers for India and in consultation with the State Editors has drawn up a general plan to be followed as far as possible by the States for their District Gazetteers. The State Government have agreed to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

This re-written District Gazetteer of Monghyr is my seventh publication in the new series. The re-written District Gazetteers for Hazaribagh, Munzaffarpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Saran and Champaran have already been published.

The work of re-writing the District Gazetteer of Monghyr has its own difficulties. There have been no recent Survey and Settlement Operations. No comprehensive socio-economic survey of the district has been undertaken. The Annual Administrative Reports are not published at the present time. The march of events since 1947 has been extremely rapid, and the very face of the district is being changed. Officers in key position have their own problems which leave them little leisure for giving active collaboration in a task of this type.

I was, however, fortunate in receiving help from various sources and in some cases they were unexpected. Institutions like National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Calcutta, Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, gave me valuable help as before. Any reference to them has been met with prompt courtesy. They have ungrudgingly allowed me loan of rare books. The old records in Monghyr Collectorate were looked into and materials collected from them have been utilised. For the later events, I have had help from various books, census reports, manuscripts and data collected from collaborators, personal investigation and research. "The Statesman" of Calcutta readily gave me permission to utilise data from an excellent brochure they had published after the great earthquake of 1934.

It is only by the pooling of resources, personal contacts, extensive tours, observation and study that a book of this type could be compiled. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Srikrishna Sinha, the Chief Minister of Bihar who comes from Monghyr district for his great interest in this work. I had called upon his valuable time with my texts and photos. Sri Binodanand Jha, Revenue Minister, and Sri Radha Govind Prasad, Deputy Minister, Revenue, have always helped me with valuable suggestions.

I am indebted to Sri Biswanath Singh, Advocate and Secretary of Srikrishna Seva Sadan, Monghyr for loaning me a manuscript of the late Sri Hem Chandra Bose, an eminent Advocate of Monghyr. I have also received great help from a number of persons some of whom are Sri Santosh Kumar Bose of Bihar Judicial Service and a son of the late Sri Hem Chandra Bose, Professor Radha Krishna Chaudhury of Begusarai College, Sri Aghore Nath Banerji, Advocate, Sri D. N. Gupta, Lawyer and Journalist and several successive District Magistrates of Monghyr. Mrs. Ambler, "Statesman", P. T. Factory and Hari Sabha of Jamalpur have helped me with some rare photos.

My thanks are due to Dr. S. B. Chaudhuri, Editor, Gazetteers and his team of Compilers of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs for going through the texts and giving many valuable suggestions.

My thanks are also due to the Superintendent of the Secretariat Press, Gulzarbagh, the Deputy Superintendent, Bihar Surveys for their interest in the printing of the book and the mans.

An attempt has been made to provide an objective book for a wide range of readers including politicians, researchers, writers, journalists, teachers, students, tourists, and, by no means, least, the interested man in the street. It will be a privilege if the book is of some help to the readers. When I look back on so much happiness, so many friendships and so much good fortune in re-writing this new series of District Gazetteers, I feel I have earned my reward.

PATNA :

The 8th October, 1960.

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P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY.

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GAZETTEER OF THE MONGHYR DISTRICT

CHAPTER I—GENERAL

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1 BOUNDARIES, AREA AND SUBDIVISIONS

The district is bounded on the north by the districts of Saharsa and Darbhanga, on the east by Bhagalpur, on the south by the Santhal Parganas and Hazaribagh, and on the west by Gaya, Patna and Darbhanga. In some places the beds of different rivers and streams form natural boundaries, but for the most part the boundaries are artificial.

2 PHYSICAL ASPECTS

The district of Monghyr, the most westerly district of the Bhagalpur Division, is situated between $24^{\circ} 22'$ and $25^{\circ} 49'$ north latitude and between $85^{\circ} 36'$ and $86^{\circ} 51'$ east longitude. It extends over an area of 3,922 square miles, and has a population according to the census of 1951, 2,849,127 persons. For administrative purposes it is divided into four subdivisions—Monghyr, Jamui, Begusarai and Khagaria, the headquarters being at Monghyr on the southern bank of the river Ganga. Monghyr is a misnomer of the vernacular name Munger, the derivation of which is the subject of several theories discussed in a separate chapter.

3 CONFIGURATION

The Ganga flows through the district from west to east dividing it into two portions of unequal size and of very different character. The northern and smaller portion is flat alluvial plain traversed by the Burhi Gandak river, which flows through it from north west to south east. The country to the west of that river is a continuation of the level, well cultivated plains of Tirhut and grows rich spring (*rabi*) and autumn (*bhadai*) crops. The country to the east is intersected by the Tiluga and Bagmati rivers, is seamed by deserted channels, and is low lying swampy and liable to inundation during the rains. The south of the district is also to a great extent alluvial, but the general level is higher, the surface is more undulating and a large area is composed of hills and valleys covered with forest or scrub jungle. The wide difference in the characteristics of the country to the north and south of the Ganga has been graphically

described as follows by a former Collector of Monghyr, Mr E Lockwood, in "Natural History, Sport and Travel" —

"The northern part is an extensive plain formed by the rich alluvial soil brought down by the ever changing river, while the southern portion consists of vast rice tracts and forests, which cover the metamorphic hills extending far away into Central India from the town of Monghyr. Lovers of natural history, who visit Monghyr, find that this division of the district separates also, in a very marked manner, the most conspicuous species of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and the sportsman who to-day may find tigers, bears, baboons, tupaias, peacocks, jungle fowl and grey partridges in the undulating country to the south, will look in vain for such things if tomorrow he crosses the river northward.

"The river separates also the most conspicuous trees and plants. In the forest of the south are found the ebony tree (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), the sal (*Shorea robusta*), the most useful of all Indian timber trees, and the mahua (*Bassia latifolia*), which supplies not only food to the lower classes, but also spirit to the drinking portion of the population. The south also yields vast quantities of rice, and a hundred and fifty tons of opium, grown on twenty five thousand acres of land, whilst, after crossing the Ganges, little rice and not a single poppy will be seen*. In the north nine tenths of the trees are cultivated mangoes, whilst wheat, Indian corn, various kinds of millet, peas, masur (*Cicer lens*), rahar (*Sytisus cajar*), oats, indigo, mustard, linseed and castor oil, are the principal crops which the landholders find profitable to grow. The northern portion of the district also, during the cold weather, forms a vast feeding ground for swimming and wading birds. On some of the marshes a hundred thousand ducks may be seen, so close together that they almost hide the water and as flock after flock pass overhead on being disturbed, the sound of their wings resembles waves breaking on a troubled shore.

There are some minor natural divisions in each of the main divisions. In the northern alluvial plain the western portion is an old formation, the general level of which is higher than the eastern portion. The latter, which is included in the Pharkiya pargana or Gogri thana, has an extensive block of high land in the north and a low riverain strip to the south but it is mainly a saucer shaped depression, the centre of which is inundated during the rains by the

* The area under poppy cultivation decreased in 1907-8 to 15 000 acres yielding 54 tons of opium. The cultivation has now been abandoned.

overflow of the rivers and for the rest of the year is full of marshy hollows. In the rains this tract, which extends over some 200 square miles, is a vast swamp so deeply flooded, that not more than half the land is cultivated. In the dry season it is a wide prairie covered with an undergrowth of more succulent grasses, which afford abundant pasture for great herds of cattle.

The western portion is included in the Begusarai subdivision and is fringed on the north by a level upland tract, and on the south by the Gangetic riverain, where land is constantly being formed or washed away by the swift silt-laden current. To the north of the Begusarai subdivision is a large but shallow lake called the Kābar Tal' and east of the latter are large areas of grass jungle intersected by rivers and swamps. To the south of the Gandak there is a strip about 3 miles broad, which is liable to flood and is inundated every year. Further south the country is densely populated and well cultivated.

In the country south of the Ganga there is an alluvial strip of land stretching along the bank of the river and bearing heavy *jabi* crops. Immediately south of this alluvial belt the Kharagpur hills form a distinct watershed, the country to the west being drained by the Kiul and that to the east by the Man and other streams. To the north-west, in the angle between the South Bihar (Kiul Gaya line) and the Eastern Railway from Lakhisarai to Barhiya, there is a wide level expanse of rice fields. Part of this tract consists of flood area of Halahar or Harhohor river, and is characterised by a heavy soil. To the south of the South Bihar Railway line is a wide, almost treeless plain comprised in the Sikandra thani, and this is separated from the Kiul valley to the south by a block of hills known as the Gidheswar hills.

South of the Kharagpur hills there is a stretch of undulating country extending to the borders of Chakai and Hazaribagh, which comprise parganas Parbatpara and Chakai, and a part of pargana Gidhour made up of three large taluks, viz., Mahapur Kalan, Dumri and Mahesri. Pargana Chakai in the extreme south is an upland plateau encircled by hills and still largely covered with jungle. It is separated from the undulating tract to the north by a range of hills called the Batia hills, stretching in a long curve from Barwe, north of Simultala, to the Hazaribagh and Gaya border.

4 HILLS

The hills of Monghyr comprise a number of low ranges and isolated peaks outliers of the Vindhyan series, which enter the district from the south and gradually converge towards Monghyr town where they dip under the Ganga. The most extensive range is known as Kharagpur hills, which form an irregular triangular block extending from near Jamalpur to the Jamal railway station. They consist of a number of steep ridges rising from the low ground

on all sides, with scarped faces of massive quartzite in places, they are of irregular formation and do not run in any uniform direction. Generally speaking the range is a bold and striking mass of rocks covered for the most part with jungle, but it contains valleys with patches of cultivation and several hot springs, of which the finest are those at Bhimbandh, though those at Sitakund and Rishikund are better known. Near the south western fringe of these hills is Sringrikhi, a peak said to have been hermitage of the Rishi Sringa and a noted place of pilgrimage. There are several peaks rising to a height of about 1,500 feet and the highest point is Marik (1,628 feet above sea level), a table topped hill, covered with forest and crowned with a deep layer of laterite. To the north of this range are low jungle-covered approaches within a short distance of Monghyr.

To the south west is another block of hills, which are known locally as the Gidheswar Hills from a peak of that name, but are referred to in geological works as the Gidhour Hills. These hills are a continuation of the hills in the Nawada subdivision of the Gaya district and cover an area of about 80 square miles, forming a compact cluster between Khaira and the western boundary of Monghyr. They rise sharply from the plain, but in most places there is a belt of jungle along their northern face before the actual ascent begins. To the east there is a fine cliff overlooking Khaira and the Kiul river, and the range falls away to the south into the rocky valley of the Kiul. On the south in the village of Sakdari there is a spring called Panchbhui, which is surrounded by precipitous walls of rock. The highest point of the range is at Elgora (1,813 feet).

To the south a broken semi circular range extends from near Bishunpur, on the west to Simultala on the east, separating the Chakai plateau from the rest of the Jamui subdivision. On the extreme west of this range is a high hill, named Satpahari, scarped on its northern face, beyond which the Kiul river breaks through the range by a narrow gorge. The hill is 1,806 feet above sea level and 1,200 feet above the country at its base. There is also a small range of hills in the level alluvial plain near Sheikhpura, which are practically bare of vegetation. They rise somewhat abruptly on the south, while on the north where they overlook Sheikhpura, the crags are almost precipitous. The range is intersected by several miniature passes, over which the roads are carried. There are also small isolated, stony hills south of Sheikhpura and some hills of fair size on both sides of the Lakhisarai Jamui road south of Titar Hat in the plain to the west of the Kiul river.

The Kharagpur hills contain several hot springs, situated near Kachu at Sringrikhi, Bhimbandh, Rishikund at Barde and Baunsa hill. They are probably due to deep-seated thermodynamic action and it is interesting to find historic testimony to the former existence

in this region of an active volcano, for the Chinese pilgrim, Hieun Tsiang, who visited the neighbourhood of Monghyr in the first half of the seventh century A. D. records that "by the side of the capital and bordering on the Ganges river is the I-lan no mountain, from which are belched forth masses of smoke and vapour, which obscure the light of the sun and moon" Most of the hot springs are held in considerable repute by the local inhabitants in the neighbourhood as potent remedies, especially for itch, ulcers and other skin affections. A most essential part of the process of cure consists in the preliminary worship of the presiding deity of the spring.

"Nearly all these springs", writes Colonel Waddell, "are worshipped by the Hindu and semi-aboriginal villagers in the vicinity for these strange outbursts of heated water, boiling up cauldron like and wreathed in clouds of vapour, are regarded by them as supernatural phenomena and the especial expression of the presence of a deity. The deity usually worshipped at the springs by the semi-aboriginals is Mata or Mai, the mother goddess, one of the forms of Kali, and large *melas* are held in her honour. She is especially worshipped by those suffering from itch and other skin diseases, also by the barren, both male and female, who bathe in the water and drink some of it. Goats, etc., are sacrificed to her, and rocks are daubed with vermillion (*sindur*) and pieces of coloured rags are tied to the nearest bush or tree in her worship.

"The more Hinduized, however, believe that their favourite god Mahadeva is specially present at all those hot springs, and to him they there offer worship, except at Sitakund, the thermal springs of relatively low temperature which might perhaps be termed warm rather than hot springs, are believed by the villagers to be hotter in the very early morning and to become cooler as the day advances. This opinion is evidently founded on the loose subjective sensation of the villagers, who in the cool of the morning remark that the spring, being hotter than the atmosphere, gives a sensation of decided heat, which contrast becomes less marked during the day when the sun has heated the earth and air, causing these to approach the temperature of the spring.

"The temperature of some of the springs, however, does seem occasionally to undergo actual fluctuation according to season and other conditions not yet well ascertained. This, indeed, might to a certain extent be expected, seeing that hot springs derive their heat, more or less, directly from volcanic action, which is essentially subject to alternative periods of activity and relative rest."

5 RIVER SYSTEM

The rivers of the district consist of the Ganga, its tributaries and sub-tributaries. To the north its principal affluents are the Burhi Gandak, the Baghamati and the Tiljuga or Kamala, which enter the district from Darbhanga. They have comparatively narrow

channels, and after a heavy fall in the Sub Himalayan tracts from which they debouch, frequently overflow their banks and lay a considerable area under water. To the south the principal rivers are the Kiul, the tributaries of the Kiul and the Man but there are also a number of hill streams which come down in freshets during the rains, but subside as rapidly as they rise. For the greater part of the year they are sandy water-courses with little or no current, and are exhausted by the demand for irrigation before they reach the Ganga. The following is a brief account of the principal rivers

Ganga

The Ganga has a course of about 70 miles within the district. It first touches the district a few miles to the west of the Bachhwara railway station nearly opposite Barh in the Patna district from which point it flows to the south-east in a long reach of 30 miles as far as Surajgarha, where it is joined by the Kiul. Leaving Surajgarha, it flows to the north east describing a sharp bend on reaching the high land near Monghyr. It then turns almost due south for 12 miles and next to the eastward for 5 miles till it reaches the boundary of Bhagalpur. In its course through the district the river is both wide and deep at all times of the year, and in the rains it spreads over the low lying lands of pargana Pharkiya to the north for a distance of 20 miles from its ordinary bed. To the west, it is said to have had formerly a course of 10 miles to the north of its present channel. To the east, the river has several times shifted both to the east and to the west of the rock on which the Monghyr fort stands alternatively forming and washing away large areas of *diara* lands but since the earliest times of which any record exists it has washed the base of the rock immediately to the north of the fort. The largest areas of alluvial deposit formed by changes in the main channel are comprised in the Government estates of Kutlupur to the west and Binda *diara* to the east of Monghyr town. The *diaras* on the southern bank are very extensive, so much so that the breadth of the river some miles above Monghyr, when in flood, averages from 6 to 8 miles.

Burhi Gandak

The Burhi (literally old) Gandak, or Little Gandak, runs due south along the north western boundary of the Begusarai subdivision for a distance of about 8 miles from near Rusera in the Darbhanga district. It then turns to the east, entering the district at a village called Akaha, and flows a winding course through the Begusarai subdivision until it flows into the Ganga by the town of Khagaria, a few miles below Monghyr. It is navigable all the year round, for large boats during the rains and for small boats at other times. Steamers also ply along it as far as Khagaria, a short distance above its confluence with the Ganga, but recently the channels at the entrance have been silting up and have become unnavigable during the dry season.

Balan

The main tributary of the Burhi Gandak is the Balan, which flows from the Darbhanga district and then takes a south-easterly course, joining the Burhi Gandak at Umedpur near the Chiria Bariarpur police out post. It has one small tributary, the Bainti, a stream debouching from Darbhanga, which falls into it near its junction with the Burhi Gandak. The Balan has a considerable volume in the rains, and is navigable by small boats throughout the year.

Baghamati

The Baghamati enters the district a little east of Garhpura in the north-east corner of the Begusarai subdivision and then flows east into the northern portion of the Khagaria subdivision near Bhagalpur. It traverses that subdivision pursuing a winding but generally easterly direction, till it flows into the Tiljuga near Chautham. It has one tributary, the Chandan, which is fed mainly by the Kabar Tal.

Tiljuga

The Tiljuga, also called the Kamla and in its lower reaches the Ghagri, enters the Gogri thana from Darbhanga a few miles north of Mohraghat. It flows south east to Chautham, where it receives the waters of the Baghamati, and the united stream then continues to the boundary of Bhagalpur under the name of the Ghagri. Near Ramnagar it is joined by the Katni, which enters the district about 10 miles to the north near Kasnagar and is itself a combination of three streams called the Telawe or Talaba, Parwan and Loran. The Tiljuga is navigable all the year round by boats of considerable size.

Kiul

The principal river to the south of the Ganga is the Kiul. It rises in the Kharagdiha thana of Hazaribagh, and after forming the boundary of that district for a short distance, enters Monghyr through a narrow gorge near the Satpahari hill. It runs at first eastward close to the southern face of the Gidheswar hills but turns northward at their eastern extremity and passes one mile east of the town of Jamui. Two miles south of Jamui it is joined by Barnar, which rises on the borders of Chakai and Hazaribagh and two miles below this point it receives the Alai, a hill stream, which like other hill streams in the south, dries up in the hot weather. Opposite the Jamui railway station it is joined by the Anjan which drains the northern portion of the Jamui subdivision. It then flows north-east up to Lakhisarai, and is joined a few miles north of that place by the Halahar (or Harhoar), a continuation of the Sakri river. After this it turns due east and finally falls into the Ganga near Surajgarha. Until it meets the Halahar, the Kiul has a broad bed and in some places is as much as half a mile wide, though it contains very little water in the hot

weather. It is spanned by a large railway bridge between Kiul and Lakhisarai and a road bridge on Monghyr Patna road near Lakhisarai.

Anjan

The Anjan rises in the Anjan hill to the north of the village of Barhat in the Mallepur *taluk* and after passing through that *taluk* falls into the Kiul near Bariarpur. It has been dammed up in Barhat, and its water is diverted into an irrigation channel known as the Belia Nali, which irrigates several villages. The river receives several tributary streams, viz., the Jamkhar, the Bajan and the Chhuria, which has a sub tributary, the Kairwar. Popular tradition is that Anjan gave birth to Hanuman on the hill in which the river has its source.

Ajai

The Ajai, one of the larger tributaries of the Bhagirathi, has its source in the extreme south. It owes its origin to the confluence of a number of small streams, but before it leaves the district is a fairly large river. It eventually debouches into the Bhagirathi near Katwa in the Burdwan district.

Man

The Man river rises in the Kharagpur hills, not far off the Bhimbandh springs and pursues a winding north-easterly course to the east of those hills till it debouches in the Ganga near Ghorghat. The lower reaches, however, contain but little water, for a great dam has been built about 2 miles south of Kharagpur, where the Man runs through the narrow gorge. To the south the gorge widens out into a valley, hemmed in by low but abrupt hills, which the dam has converted into a larger reservoir from which water is drained off to irrigate the adjoining country.

6 GEOLOGY

No proper geological survey of Monghyr district has been carried out and as such very little is known about the mineral resources of this district. In 1947 Sir Cyril S. Fox, late Director, Geological Survey of India, made a hurried survey of Gidhour estate and his report throws some light on the mineral wealth of this district. Whatever minerals are known to exist are found in the south of Monghyr district. The chief minerals are—

(1) *Slate Quarries*

In the transitional rock of the Kharagpur hills there is a band of slates, from 6 to 12 feet thick, which is traceable for many miles on the northern margin of the hills between Rishikund on the east and the Gaura and Amarsani coals on the west. Being for the most part vertical, it can only be worked on steps on the sides of the hills or by actual mines.

There are at present six slate quarries and two stone quarries working in the district of Monghyr and Sitakobar, Garia, Amrasani, Tikoi, Sikkoli, and Bijolia. On reference to the last *Monghyr Gazetteer* it appears that the quarries have been worked since 1864 by M/s Ambler and Company who purchased the Basauni Indigo Factory from the late Mr Dear and converted it into a slate factory. Now these quarries are worked by different persons.

The two stone quarries are at Kharsar Pahar and Ghutko Hills under Shri Narendra Nath Bose of Jhajha.

The chief building stones are quartzite and slab slate. There are old slate quarries near Shivkund two miles south-east of Dudham in the Moric valley (four miles south-east of Kajra railway station). There are several places in the western end of Kharagpur Hills and Gidhour range where quartzite is available for use as road and building stones and as ballast. South of Jhajha the rocks are more schistose and gneissic and basic rocks such as hornblend schist may be met with in certain places. Crystalline limestone or marble is reported to occur two to three miles west of Simultala railway station on the border of Kewal estate, but very little work has been done on these limestones. Kankar is found on the surface in many places and collected in the area near Jhajha for lime burning and cement manufacture.

(2) Mica Mines

The Bihar Mica Belt extends eastwards from the Hazaribagh and Gaya districts into south western Monghyr and the Muscovite Mica Mines of Maheshwari Gaddi and the other estates round Chakai to near Jhajha have been known and worked during the past half century or so. The mica mines appear to be situated in different belt of the metamorphic schistose rocks which trend in a general easterly strike into Monghyr from the west. Here there are 12 mines at work. (1) at Badarchhila, Barsauni, Upperchhala for mica and prospecting of minerals other than mica such as galena kaolin, beryl, under M/s S K Sahana and Sons, Ltd of Chakai, (2) at Upperchhala for mica under M/s S K Sahana and Sons, Ltd of Chakai, (3) at Bishunpur for mica under Shri Palakdhari Lal Modi of Maheshwari, (4) at Konjhi Turkatola and Digarbhia for columbite, mica and berylum under M/s Rare Mineral and Mines Company, Ltd, (5) at Duhua Hill for mica under Mr N C Adhikari (6) at Bahara and Guruhila for mica under Mr B N Sahana of Giridih, (7) at Panari Hill for mica under Mr Bodi Singh of Maheshwarikhurd, (8) at Telwa for mica under Giridhari Bhattacharya, (9) at Pundra Hill for mica under Mr Chunchun Pd Singh of Maheshwari, (10) at Raghu nathpur for mica under M/s Mahabir Mica Company through Kandhwal Chaudhary of Giridih, (11) at Sorhi for mica under M/s Khaira Mining Corporation, Ltd, no 4 China Bazar Street, Calcutta, and (12) at Bichhwa under M/s Shivshankar Mica Supply Company, Ltd.

Geology and Physical Geography', Part II, 1918, page 430, which reads "Monghyr Pananoa Hill, 4 miles south of Jhajha. An occurrence of columbite and tantalite, discovered by Mr H H French, was examined by Holland in 1894. The mineral was found in lumps imbedded in the quartz of a very coarse pegmatite dyke intrusive in mica schist crowded with tourmaline crystals. Specimens subsequently received in the Geological office were found to have specific gravities of 6.75 and 6.92 and contain 37 and 52 per cent of tantallic acid respectively."

(7) *Corundum*

About 1877 Mr W W Hunter reported the occurrence in the hills north east of Jamui. But according to Sir Cyril S Fox no corundum has since been found in the area round about Jamui or anywhere in Monghyr district. The probability is that another mineral was mistaken for corundum or that another place is referred to.

(8) *Manganese Ore*

Both Sir Lewis Fermor and Dr Dunn show, on their mineral maps, a deposit of manganese ore near the railway between Gidhaur and Jamui stations. One locality, the Katnowa hills, is recognised as the Hog's back ridge immediately north of Kataura, where the material is concretionary and of lateritic origin, showing nearly 30 per cent of manganese with some barytes. No serious prospecting has been carried out, and according to Sir Cyril S Fox, the deposit is presumably small.

(9) *Beryl*

Crystals of Beryl in hexagonal prisms up to 3 to 8 inches across and an inch or so to 2 feet or more occur with the muscovite mica in the coarse pegmatites which occur in the metamorphic rocks of the Bihar Mica Belt. The crystals are found when mining the mica. Sometimes these crystals appear to be absent and they are always relatively rare. Sir Cyril S Fox saw beryl from the Bichhwa mine south-east of Sikandra in 1947 and he was informed that more than a ton of such beryl crystals were obtained from the pegmatite of Pananoa Hill, where the columbite and tantalite were obtained a few miles from Jhajha railway station.

(10) *Mineral Water*

Monghyr district has long been famous for its mineral waters and hot water springs. There is a belt of thermal springs along a zone from the Kharagpur Hills to the Rajgir Hills of the Patna district. There are many springs known in the Gidhaur estate in various places but the only spring which appears to be recognised as a mineral spring is that of Baskund valley five miles east of Mananpur railway station and known as "Punchbhur" (five holes).

(3) *Limestone*

There was a lime burning establishment at Jhajha railway station which also prepared the Roman cement and was known as Jhajha Industrial Cement Company. The cement was manufactured out of the *kankar* collected locally from the surface ground. About 36 tons of *kankar* yield 24 tons of *kankar* lime.

(4) *Clays*

Fuller's earth is to be found in the valley five miles or so east of Mananpur railway station in the Mahajanwa *nala*. Just within the hills less than two miles south of Panari, 14 or 15 miles south south west of Jhajha and west of the Barnar river, there are China clay mines in a decomposed pegmatite. The exact locality is in the valley about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east, north-east of Tangrijet hill, 1,664 feet of the great ridge facing the Maheshwari Gaddi from the south. The mines are known as Bhukhli Kaolin Mines. The perfectly white clay is washed in the valley and carted to the Jhajha China Clay Works by cart *via* Batia and Nawadih. This material is of excellent character both as regards its white colour and its plasticity.

(5) *Fuller's Earth*

From the report of Sir Cyril S. Fox it appears that Fuller's earth is to be found in the valley five miles or so east of Mananpur railway station in the Mahajanwa *nala* about two miles east north east of Baskund. The quantity of this greenish coloured material which turns a light biscuit colour on kneading has not been established. It occurs exposed in the bank of the *nala* but northwards it will have to be worked under 8 to 10 feet of flat lying, recent conglomerate. The slates strike east to west with 70 degree dips to the north. At present the material seems to be used only as a colour wash but it is probably an edible clay as well as Fuller's earth. It is not a bed in itself but the decomposed out-crop of steep dipping slates so that its downward extension is uncertain as well as its superficial spread.

(6) *Columbite*

Sir Cyril S. Fox while conducting a geological survey of Gidhaur Estate in 1947 was informed by Mr. H. K. Roy Chaudhary, Chief Geologist to Gorg Brothers Ltd., that $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of columbite and tantalite was procured and despatched by this Firm from Jhajha railway station during the war (1939-1945) at a price of about Rs. 3,500 per ton. According to the information supplied by Mr. Roy Chaudhary the occurrence is about six miles southwards from Jhajha railway station in a pegmatite on a hill, and that beryl was also found in the same pegmatite with muscovite mica. This was evidently in the Pananoa Hill occurrence as the hamlets near the hill are known as Pananoa and Parsawa. This agrees with the record as given by T. H. D. La Touche in 'A Bibliography of Indian

Geology and Physical Geography", Part II, 1918, page 430, which reads 'Monghyr Pananoa Hill, 4 miles south of Jhajha. An occurrence of columbite and tantalite, discovered by Mr H H French was examined by Holland in 1894. The mineral was found in lumps imbedded in the quartz of a very coarse pegmatite dyke, intrusive in mica schist crowded with tourmaline crystals. Specimens subsequently received in the Geological office were found to have specific gravities of 6.75 and 6.92 and contain 37 and 52 per cent of tantalic acid respectively.'

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From the report of the mineral resources of the Gidhaur estate by Sir Cyril S Fox, DSc, FGS, late Director of Geological Survey of India and past President, Mining Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India and the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, it appears that the water below the spring is warmer than the water of normal spring but it is not hot and it has the distinctive test of an iron water. He found it a very unattractive drink in temperature and in taste on a very hot day. Among the mineral waters the following hot springs are noteworthy and famous —

- (1) *Sitakund*—About five miles east of Monghyr town. This is the hottest water spring of the district. Dr P K Ghosh described that it would be very difficult to find a better mineral water, as table water particularly, than that from Sitakund.
- (2) *Rameshwar Kund*—About two miles from Kharagpur lake. The water of the spring is sufficiently warm.
- (3) *Sringharishu Kund*—About four miles from Kajra railway station.

7 SOILS

A more detailed discussion on soils will be found elsewhere. Briefly, the district extends over both sides on the Ganga and has two different kinds of soils. North of the river, the soils are sandy alluvium and three fourth of Begusarai subdivision lies between the rivers Gandak and the Ganga and is well raised and free from inundation. Autumn and winter crops are grown here. But north of Begusarai and almost the whole of Khagaria is a low lying tract subject to destructive floods. To the north west there is a 7 square miles lake known as Kabar Tal and the areas near the lake grow rice. North Khagaria has some uplands which grow excellent *bhadai* and *rabi* crops, while to the south between the railway lines and the Ganga there are *diara* lands which are good for maize, pulses, wheat and gram. South of the Ganga there is a variety of lands in the district. The quasi *diara* lands along the river grow good *rabi* crops. Between the Ganga and railway line there are rich paddy lands and the land in Sheikhpura thana has two kinds of soils, (i) eastern portion which has inundated heavy soils and (ii) the western portion, which is irrigated soil in the east hills and jungles of Kharagpur in the centre and wide flat plains in the west. South of Kharagpur hills is undulating country, the greater portion of which cannot be irrigated and beds of streamlets are terraced to grow rice. In the extreme south of the district are found hard stone sides of the hillocks and harder mounds of '*kankar*' and the flat laterites of Chakai. The soils are merely scratched with a plough and a small crop of *kulthi*, *kodo*, *til*, mustard and *rahar* is taken.

Soils met with in different parts of the district consist of sandy, *diara* (silly), loamy, clayey and *usar* (alkali) soils. Various kinds of

clay soils are found ranging from light coloured to jet black, brick red and sticky clays

Chemically, the soils of Monghyr district, on the average have 0.045 per cent nitrogen, 0.003 per cent phosphoric acid, 0.002 per cent potash and a PH of 7.6

Salinity of alkalinity occupies an important phase in soil types, and soils in the area of Bakharī and Khodawāndpur are alkaline (*usar*)

8 VEGETATION

There are few districts in Bihar so favourably situated for the study of botany as Monghyr. The alluvial and thickly populated plains north of the Ganga contain most of the trees and plants useful to man that are suited to the soil and climate, while in the hilly country to the south there are numerous forest trees and shrubs. Here Sal, Kend, Simul and other trees grow side by side, protecting from the Sun's rays the ferns and humble creepers which grow below. Any one who takes his stand on the table topped Marul, or indeed on any point in the hills, may count a hundred different species growing round him. But the most casual observer will at once detect the ravages made by the agency of man. Not only is the woodman's axe busy and the underwood periodically consumed as firewood, but cows, sheep and goats are let loose in the woods, and pasturage quickly destroys vegetation. Indeed, in the Sikandra Thana for some hundred square miles not a grove can be seen, and there are few trees except those planted along the roads or a line of palm trees along some tank or the boundary of field. Notwithstanding, however, the denudation which goes on, Monghyr is still a well wooded district, for round the villages many trees are allowed to survive for the sake of their fruit, while a botanical excursion in the hills will disclose a great variety of trees and plants, although few of the trees are of any large size.

The Sal being the most useful species have suffered from indiscriminate felling. Directly they attain a size sufficient to form a *gol* or prop for a native house, they are chopped down, carried off, and sold in the distant villages. The consequence is that other kinds of trees, whose wood is in less demand for fuel or for timber have obtained the upper hand. The fibre yielding Malvaceae are perhaps now the most conspicuous, their wood making indifferent fuel, it is hardly worthwhile to strip them of their bark, as the fibre of the cultivated members of the family is sold cheap in every bazar. The red cotton tree, the Karainji (*Sterculia urens*) and the Anthur Dhamin (*Helicteres isora*) with its twisted pods are common, while the wild cotton and many other species of *Hibiscus* appear as annuals or under shrubs. The leguminosae are also common, including the ramrand, the Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*), the Palas (*Butea frondosa*), the Kachnar (*Bauhinia variegata*) and many acacias and mimosas.

and in times of dearth it is an important item in the food supply of the district. But the crop is uncertain, and the trees are troubled with parasites, which must do them much injury, though the scarlet flowers add considerably to the beauty of the landscape. Besides supplying fruit and fuel, the mango groves are useful as pasturage grounds, giving shade to cattle in the hot weather and shelter during the winter. The next most abundant tree is the oak murtle (*Barringtonia acutangula*), which abounds in the marshes of pargana Pharkiya. It is known here as the Ijar, and although belonging to the natural order of myrtles, has the appearance of a stunted oak. It grows well in several feet of water, and is consequently a favourite roosting place for birds. The branches, which during the rains droop into the water, are also the resting place of fresh water sponges known to the natives as *phen* or foam. The red cotton tree is one of the most conspicuous trees, particularly in the cold weather when it is covered with large crimson flowers.

Some members of the great fig family are found in every village. The Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*) is most common, and then the banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*), though in this district the large trees with several trunks may be counted on the fingers. The Gular (*Ficus glomerata*) with its fruit packed full of flies, and the Pakur (*Ficus infectoria*) are also frequent. The well known Babul (*Acacia arabica*) with its sweet scented ally the Guhiya Babul (*Acacia farnesiana*), is common in hedges and waste places, and is a favourite nesting place of the turtle dove. Then there is the Sohora (*Streblus aspher*), the twigs of which provide the Hindus with tooth brushes, but it is looked on with abhorrence by Muslims, because, according to tradition it was the only wood which would take fire when the unbelievers wished to burn their saint Ibrahim Khalil Ullah. The Nim (*Melia azadirachta*), Siris (*Albizia lebbek*) and tamarind are fairly common, and the Jiyal (*Odina wodier*), with its cat-o-nine-tail panicles of flowers, attracts attention in every well wooded village. Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*) is planted freely, usually in row on the borders of the field, where their crooked trunks lopped of all the lower branches present a fantastic appearance. Willows (*Salix tetrasperma*) many be seen on most bank overhanging water-courses and *jhils*. They are known locally by the name of bes, and baskets are occasionally made from their twigs in Monghyr as in England. Palm trees including both the palmyra (*Phoenix flabellifer*) and the date palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) are found in plantations round the village but they are not so common as they are in the southern part of the district, where during the hot months thousands of gallons of toddy (*tari*) are consumed by a thirsty public and yield revenue to the State. Among other fruit trees may be noted the Jaman (*Eugenia jambolana*), the jack or kathal (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) and last but not least the Bel (*Angle mermelos*). To enumerate all types of vegetation would require much space, those which have been mentioned are merely the most common and conspicuous.

market for cheap packing cases. The gorgeous flowering Palas (*Butea frondosa*) abounds in the lower slopes and also on the plains. When it blossoms in February and March the trees are full of scarlet flowers, which have earned for it the picturesque name of the "Flame of the Forests". The allied companion called Chihuit (*Butea superba*) which is a climber, is also abundant and its flowers are equally splendid. Kachnar (*Bauhinia purpurea* and *Bauhinia variegata*) are numerous. The gigantic creeping Chihor (*Bauhinia vahli*) is a great menace to the useful trees because it does great damage by climbing and killing some of them, but at the same time it is economically useful as ropes are made from its bark and the leaves are used for making indigenous waterproofs for the local people. Among other important trees several species of *Terminalia* are worth mentioning. Harie (*Terminalia chebula*) and Bahera (*Terminalia belerica*) are useful because the fruits of these trees combined with fruit of Amla (*Emblica officinalis*) make the famous indigenous purgative, the *triphala* or the myrobalans of commerce. *Malvaceae* and *Sterculiaceae* are also numerous. The former species includes the Simul or red cotton tree (*Salvia malabaricum*), various kinds of Hibiscus all yielding strong fibres and the Van Kapis (*Gossypium*) or wild cotton. The latter family is represented by Karanj (*Sterculia urens*) the fibrous bark of which is almost unbreakable. In December it is conspicuous for its white trunk and leafless branches which have earned for it the description of a spectre like tree. Special mention has to be made of the Sabai (*Ischaemum angustifolium*) a species of grass found on the higher slope and top of the hills. This grass gives an annual revenue of Rs 7,981. Hundreds of persons gain their livelihood by collecting and twisting it into string and at least three fourth of the strings used in the district is made from it. This grass has got a very good market in the paper mills as better quality papers are made from this grass. There are also several species of fig trees, conspicuous among which is Gular (*Ficus glomerata*), fruit of which the people residing in forests share with the birds and animals such as bears and deer.

Useful as most of the trees undoubtedly are, there is no tree which can be compared to the Mahua (*Madhuca latifolia*), which yields food, wine, oil and timber. From its flowers the common country spirit is distilled and whether fresh or dried the flowers furnish the poor classes with wholesome food, from the fruit pressed an oil largely used by the people in the forest and at the same time it has got great demand in urban areas for using as an adulteration of ghee and the tough timber is used in construction of buildings. The value of the Mahua depends on the succulent petals of flowers which cover the trees from year to year apparently favourable or unfavourable seasons, so pregnant with weal or woe to other plants. The flowering season in March is a great season for the villagers inside and round about the forests. If one passes through the forests in early morning he will find men, women and children

sweeping up *mahu* flowers. Nor does the feasting end with the day, bears, pigs and deer have their turn during the night and many of them fall a victim to their fondness for the sweet scented flowers being shot by the bullets of the *shikaris* lying concealed either in bushes or on *machans*.

The other most important associate of the forest is the bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*). Bamboos are very greatly used in construction of houses. The classes known as *doms* and *turis* earn their livelihood by making baskets, brooms, mats and various other articles. After meeting the local demand it finds its way to the paper mills.

10 FAUNA

Tigers are now no longer found in the forests of this district although in the beginning of the century tigers, though scarce, were found in hills of Kharagpur and Gidheshwar. Many of them had turned into man eaters and were responsible for 176 deaths in the three years 1900 to 1902. Sometime one or two cross the forests of Gaya and Koderma (Hazaribagh). Recently (1958) one tiger was killed in Sikandra police station which was said to have come from Kawakol (Gaya).

Leopards are much in evidence and numerous cases are reported of their killing dogs, goats and cattle even within 15 miles of Monghyr. Black or sloth bears (*Ursus meliurus*) are found on all the larger hills and in the jungle surrounding them where they can feed on white ants, plum and other fruits and drink from the hill streams. Even here however they are not so plentiful because they are easily shot down by the Santals when they come to feed on the fallen flowers of the *mahu* tree. They will dispute the possession of these with the peasants who try to gather them often with fatal results to the latter. Hyenas are found in the hills and wild cats are common. The civet family is represented by the large Indian civet (*Viverricula zibethus*). The dog family include wolves the familiar jackal and Indian fox, the last two are as common and the first as rare as in other districts. The wild dog is met with in the hills, and in the vicinity of Bhumbandhi, Chornara, Gaighat and Garinaba. There is one species of badger not uncommon in the same tract—the Indian ratel (*Mellivora indica*). Among insectivorous mammals the tupias or tree shrews call for a special notice. They are arboreal animals looking like a cross between a squirrel and a rat, but are easily distinguished from the former by their ears and teeth. Somewhat rare animals elsewhere, they are still found in the Kharagpur hills.

There are several species of Chiroptera, including frugivorous bats, the long armed bat and long tailed bat and other insectivorous bats, known by the generic name of *chamgudri*. Rodents include porcupines, hares and the palm squirrel (*Sciurus palmarum*), a misleading title as it is far more frequently seen in fruit gardens.

than on palm trees. Two species of monkey are found in the district, the long-tailed *langur* (*Semnopithecus entellus*) and the shorter-tailed Bengal monkey or *bandar* (*Macacus rhesus*). The former is found to the south of the Ganga and the latter affects certain localities from which apparently they never migrate. At Monkey Island on the Kabir lake, they are particularly numerous being venerated by the priests of Hindu temple. In the year 1703 a yearly grant was made by Government for the express purpose of feeding the monkeys and lighting the temple on the island, but in 1802 the grant was discontinued, owing to its being misappropriated by the priests. The ungulata are not numerous in Monghyr. There are, however, several species of deer, including the noble sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), chital or spotted deer, ravine deer and barking deer, which are found in the south, though not in any great number. Nilgai (*Bovelaphus tragotamalus*) are also occasionally met with. Wild pigs are numerous in the jungle at the foot of the Girdheshwar hills and are often trapped in pits by *shikaris*. Last among mammals may be mentioned porpoises, which are found in the Ganga.

11 Birds

Game birds are comparatively rare in this district owing to a variety of causes. In the south where there is sample cover in the jungle-clad hills, the Santals and others are constantly shooting them down for the pot. Cats, foxes and other vermin are even more destructive and there is certain scarcity of suitable food, for edible berries and nectar-bearing flowers are rare in the forests. The birds consequently prefer the cultivated fields and gardens, and the silence of the woods is proverbial among those who visit them. Still there is a fair variety of species, though their actual numbers are small. Pea fowls have become rare but are still often to be seen in different parts of the Kharagpur hills. The jungle fowl (*Gallus ferrugineus*) is met with in the same jungles, and the red spur fowl is occasionally seen. Grey partridges are abundant in scrub jungle south of the Ganga, the black partridge or francolin affects the grass prairies in the north of the district, and the *kyah* or marsh partridge is found in the low lands of pargana Pharkiya. The black-breasted quail breeds in this district, but is not nearly so abundant as the common quail, which migrates in the spring to breed beyond the Himalayas. It consequently has a better chance in the struggle for existence than it would have here, where so many enemies, in the shape of cats, foxes, hawks and snakes are ready to devour it and its eggs. Bustards are rarely seen.

The courier plover is found chiefly on the alluvial *diara* lands bordering the Ganga, and flocks of swallow plover may be seen hawking for insects on the banks of rivers. Other species of plover are common, the golden plover during the cold weather and the spur-winged plover at all seasons, while the Norfolk plover is frequently seen among the rocks. Cranes are cold weather visitors.

Snipes are not so numerous in Monghyr. The common and pintail species appear to be nearly equally distributed, but painted snipe and jack snipe are rare. Godwits appear on the marshes in prugana Pharkiya during the cold season, as well as curlews and whimbrels, and the graceful avocet may be occasionally seen along the banks of the Ganga. Among the stunts and sandpipers met with in the district may be mentioned the ruff, the little stint, the spotted green and common sandpipers, which appear in large numbers during the cold season, while the green shank and red shank are found on every marsh. The black winged red legged stilt (*Himantopus candidus*) is another winter visitor. Nearly all the wading family are migrants retiring beyond the Himalaya to breed.

Both the Indian jacanas, the bronze winged and pheasant tailed remain all the year round in the marshes to the north of the Ganga. They are marsh birds with long toes and claws, which enable them to run over the floating leaves of water lilies and other plants. The coots are also well represented in the marshes, conspicuous among them being the purple species. Several kinds of rail also frequent the same localities, but not in such numbers as coots and water hen. Storks are found throughout the district. The adjutant is rarely seen but the white necked stork is very common during the winter months. Herons are plentiful in the ready swamps towards the north and during the rainy season the small pond herons or paddy birds as they are familiarly called. Bitterns do not appear to be so common here but the night heron (*Nycticorax griseus*) abounds and its familiar call may be heard on still evenings as it passes to its feeding grounds. The spoonbill is occasionally seen in the Pharkiya marshes and there are several species of ibis.

The marshes in the north of the district form the home of myriads of geese and ducks during the cold season. The following species are noticed but some of them are becoming rare —

Grey goose, barred headed goose, white headed goose, rail, the whistling teal, sheldrake, ruddy sheldrake, shoveller, pink headed duck, gadwall, pin tail duck, widgeon teal, garganey, red-crested pochard, red headed pochard, ferruginous duck and tufted duck.

The crested grebe is found on most of the marshes where its diving powers excite the wonder of all who witness them, for it can travel under water almost as fast as it can fly in the air, a few seconds sufficing for it to dive and reappear at a distance of several hundred feet. The local name for the bird (*narghey*) is probably derived from the goutre like appearance of its neck. Terns also abound, especially the whiskered tern and gull-billed tern. The curious Indian skimmer with its razor like lower mandible much longer than the upper, may be seen skimming over the Ganga everywhere. Pelicans, or river sheep, as the local people call them are also seen occasionally swimming in the rivers and marshes or soaring far

overhead. Cormorants are common in congenial localities, and the nearly allied Indian snake bird (*Plotus melanogaster*) pays dearly for the beauty of its scapular feathers, for during the breeding season the *shikaris* pursue it as eagerly as they do the egrets. They are becoming rarer.

Birds of prey are fairly common including three kinds of vulture, viz., the common vulture, the black vulture and the Egyptian or scavenger vulture. Of the falcons there may be mentioned the peregrine, a cold weather visitor and the *sakar* (*Falco cheirung*). The common sparrow hawk is also found. Monghyr is rich in fishing eagles. The osprey frequents the Ganga and the large marshes north of that river. The white-tailed eagle is common breeding in the district. Harriers are plentiful during the cold season, hawking over every field in search of small birds and lizards, otolan and quail being especially marked out as their quarry. Owls are not very numerous but the rock owl is found.

Swallows, martins and swifts are numerous. The European swallow abounds during the cold season, while the wire-tailed common swallow may be seen occasionally in the Kharagpur hills. Night jays are also found throughout the hilly tracts. The common bee eaters are numerous at certain seasons, and the beautiful Indian roller, commonly called the 'blue jay' is one of the most familiar birds in this part of the country. Kingfishers are not so common, but during the cold weather may be seen hovering over tanks in search of fish. Hornbills, also wrongly called toucans, are not uncommon, the Malabar pied hornbill has been met with in the Kharagpur hills. Paroquets are common and do a certain amount of damage to the crops. There is no great variety of woodpeckers, by far the most common species being the golden-backed woodpecker (*Brahchyptermus aurantius*). Barbets are met with everywhere, especially the 'little coppersmith', so called from its monosyllabic metallic call resembling the noise made by smiths in hammering copper vessels.

Of the cuckoo family there are not many species. The European cuckoo comes during the cold weather but returns to the hills during the breeding season, when its familiar call is never heard. The pied cuckoo is heard everywhere during the rains, and the hawk cuckoo and *loel* abound at all seasons. One species of the hawk cuckoo is known as the 'brain fever bird' from the monotonous repetition of its call note in the hot weather. Coucals or crow pheasants are plentiful, and sirikar (*Taccocua*) are met with in the Kharagpur hills. Honey suckers, or hummingbirds, as they are generally called, are common and so are nuthatches during the cold weather. The hoopoe is found in every garden, and is not molested by Muhammadans, as it is supposed to have been a great favourite with Solomon. Three species of cuckoo shrikes are found and one or two species of shrike, the species known as *Lanius cristatus* being the first migrant to appear at the commencement of the cold season.

The beautiful minivets are cold weather visitors, and may be seen in flocks searching for insects in almost every grove. The drongo shrike or king crow is also seen everywhere, while the paradise fly catcher is not uncommon in well wooded country.

Thrushes are poorly represented, but the orange headed ground thrush and the blue rock thrush may occasionally be seen during the cold weather. Babbling thrushes, on the other hand, are fairly represented about seven are usually seen together, hence the name *sathhai* i.e. seven brothers. *Bulbuls* are not so numerous they are caught by the *shikaris* for the sake of their plumage and then value as fighting birds. Orioles abound in every grove, where their beautiful plumage is a striking feature during the spring. The Indian redstart and blue throat are common during the cold weather, when the rubythroat is also occasionally seen in the *tabi* fields. Indian tailor birds are plentiful and so are reed warblers which were once numerous on the Kabar lake. Tree warblers are frequently seen in the cold weather, as well as wag tails, which are all migrants leaving before their pairing season in the spring and returning at the first approach of cold weather.

The field wagtails are amongst the most numerous of the cold-weather birds and the same may be said of their cousins the pipits. The grey titmouse (*Parus cinereus*) also occasionally appears during the cold season. There are several species of the family Corvidæ including the corby and the ubiquitous common crow. The Indian magpie is another of the most familiar birds. The starlings are well represented by the *manas* several species of which remain all the year round. The European starling is common during the cold season coming in large flocks and being nearly always joined by the *manas*. The brunk *manas* are also abundant along the Ganga breeding on its banks. The *Finch* family are not so well represented as one would expect, considering the abundance of food suitable to them but the weaver bird is common and its curious nests may be seen in many villages. The *munias*, known locally as *lals* are favourite cage birds thousands being captured every year. The Indian house sparrow is ubiquitous. The rosefinch or *tuli* (*Pyrrhuloxia grisea*) is common in the fields as well as the skylark which is particularly plentiful in pargana Pharkiya. The green pigeon used to be frequently met with as also the blue rock pigeon, which occasionally enters *verandahs* to build its nest on the cornices. They are on the decline owing to indiscriminate shooting. Turtle doves are found in almost every grove, and the beautiful ground dove is sometimes seen.

12. FISH

Fish are abundant in Monghyr being found in large numbers in the Ganga and its affluents and in the *phils* or marshes to the north, which are replenished yearly from the river floods. The principal species are members of the great carp family, including

the well known rohu (*Labeo rohita*), kalbas (*Labeo calbasus*), murgal (*Catla murgala*), katla (*Catla bichanani*) and many other. They grow with extraordinary rapidity notwithstanding their number. The silurids, or scaleless fish are also well represented by the big gunch (*Bagarius yarrelli*), the silan (*Silundia gangetica*), the teng (*Macrones tengra*), the boali (*Wallago attu*), the bachua (*Etila punctatus*) and the pangas (*Pangasius bichanani*), all of which afford excellent sport for the angler. Then there is the curious hunch back or moh (*Notopterus kaptani*), which attains enormous dimensions and others too numerous to mention. Among small fish found in the Pharkiya phils may be mentioned the curious loach climbing perch (*Anabas scandens*), the beautiful prickly side (*Trichogaster fasciatus*), and several kinds of tetrodon or balloon fish which has the power of inflating itself like a balloon and erecting its spines as a means of defence. Hilsa (*Clupea ilisha*) pass up the Ganga in the rains, that being the season when they go up the river to spawn, and the river Man contains mahseer (*Barbus tor*) locally known as the Kajui. There is a big trade in fish from this district.

The pools below the waterfalls along the latter river are tenanted by a little fish which the woodmen declare to be the young teng. When the flood comes this little fish finds it very difficult to hold its own against the stream but nature has provided it with a sucker which enables it to fasten itself to the rock and wait securely until the flood has passed. Another fish found in the pools is the little emerald streaked Barilins renio which remains a pigmy all its life hiding itself under the rocks when the floods come down. The woodmen delight in fishing in the mountain streams. They use fresh water shrimp for bait, and besides fish they catch the little Indian crab, which is plentiful wherever there is water.

13 REPTILES

Crocodiles used to abound in the north of the district. The common fresh water crocodiles *Palustris* which are known as *maga* or *hochboch* are found in the Tuljga river and during the rains in the neighbouring inundated marshes. The long snouted fish eating gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) chiefly affects the Ganga. Small specimens are not infrequently caught in the fisherman's nets. Fresh water turtles abound.

The most remarkable lizards in the district are the varandac or *gohsamps*, the iguanas of European three species are found—*Hydrosauria Salvator*, the Monitor which may be distinguished by the position of the nostrils half way between the lip and the eye, is supposed without reason, to be very venomous. There are also many species of small tree lizards among which the dreaded though perfectly harmless "blood sucker" and the chameleon is not uncommon. Among the other thick tongued lizards may be mentioned the wall gecko which is a familiar sight in the houses.

Snakes are numerous in Monghyr district. The cobra is by far the most common snake and next to it the *larai* (*Bangarus coeruleus*). The rock snake (*Python molurus*), the boa constrictor of Europeans, is found on the hills. The *raysamp* (*Bangarus fasciatus*) and Russell's viper are found though rarely, vipers are occasionally found. The *sankia* (*Lycodon aulivaria*) a pretty little harmless snake declared by the local people to be very deadly, frequents, as its scientific name implies, dwelling houses and other buildings. Another snake rare in museums is not uncommon here, viz. *Ferrania sibboldii*. The little snake which resembles the earthworm is known as the *thalia samp* the meaning of which is said to be that the poisonous effects of its bite can only be removed by the speedy application of an earthen vessel (*thalia*) full of oil.

14 CLIMATE

The climate of Monghyr may be described as mean between the parching heat of the west and the moist of the east. The seasons are the same as in other parts of Bihar. The hot weather starts in the beginning of March and lasts till the middle of June. During this period the westerly wind blows through the arid sun-baked plains of Central India and causes high temperature and low percentage of humidity. This is the time when there are stay cases of *loo* and a few fall victim to this every year. With the advent of evening the temperature falls down and the night is not so oppressive provided the draft is there. The monotony is broken when there is strong gale and storm, which is locally known as 'barsakli' or 'chhota barsat'. The mercury drops down considerably only to rise again after a few days.

The monsoon usually breaks up in the third week of June and lingers till September and sometimes till early October. Though the temperature falls down the heat is oppressive in day while it is stuffy and sultry during the night.

The cold season starts from November when the mornings and evenings are very cool and pleasant. In December and January the temperature goes down and the nights are very cold. There is mild shower during this period and one experiences biting cold during the night and early morning.

The spring is very short. It usually starts in February and lasts till early March. Nights are refreshing but the days are warmer and sometimes uncomfortable.

The average rainfall in inches of Monghyr from 1924-25 to 1956-57 is given below —

(1) 1924-25		64.91
(2) 1925-26	..	44.05

() 1926 27	15 02
(1) 1927 28	39 88
(5) 1928 29	52 13
(6) 1929 30	51 76
(7) 1930 31	41 57
(8) 1931 32	46 55
(9) 1932 33	33 14
(10) 1933 34	53 65
(11) 1934 35	16 33
(12) 1935 36	12 91
(13) 1936 37	69 17
(14) 1937 38	52 27
(15) 1938 39	57 54
(16) 1939 40	47 75
(17) 1940 41	34 75
(18) 1941-42	52 54
(19) 1942 43	46 40
(20) 1943 44	16 85
(21) 1944 45	56 92
(22) 1945-46	36 56
(23) 1946 47	36 09
(24) 1947 48	13 11
(25) 1948 49	45 78
(26) 1949 50	67 41
(27) 1950 51	49 50
(28) 1951 52	42 04
(29) 1952 53	29 22
(30) 1953 54	10 07
(31) 1954 55	38 03
(32) 1955 56	47 65
(33) 1956 57	56 12

According to the rainfall report is recorded at the Government Agricultural Farm Monghyr the average rainfall from 1943 to 1957 is 40.22. Statements regarding the rainfall report at the Government Agricultural Farm from 1943 to 1957 and of the rainy days from 1948 to 1957 are as follows :-

Rainfall Report as recorded at the Government Agricultural Farm, Monghyr
(Average Rainfall of the years—40 22 inches)

Serial no	Year	Month												No of days with rain	Total Rainfall inches
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1	1943	0.74	0.38	0.00	0.00	1.91	3.52	17.41	8.78	10.09	1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.19
2	1944	1.62	0.33	0.24	1.64	1.44	7.90	9.34	27.53	7.18	1.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.66
3	1945	1.52	2.15	0.00	2.06	2.09	1.54	8.22	10.68	7.71	4.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.39
4	1946	0.33	0.74	0.00	1.11	1.30	1.89	8.77	11.62	4.58	3.20	0.78	0.00	0.00	30.33
5	1947	0.02	0.22	0.00	0.00	1.08	1.15	3.53	7.32	10.35	1.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.12
6	1948	0.30	0.16	0.13	0.00	0.44	3.38	7.57	8.04	7.28	3.76	0.82	0.00	0.00	34.48
7	1949	0.19	1.61	0.00	1.25	3.52	8.03	10.12	12.41	8.92	3.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.55
8	1950	0.10	0.83	0.36	0.08	0.13	16.14	4.58	9.34	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.11
9	1951	0.15	0.00	0.04	0.17	0.03	4.83	11.60	5.61	4.92	1.43	0.20	0.00	0.00	28.98
10	1952	0.00	0.33	0.24	0.91	1.55	11.12	4.35	2.29	7.44	0.03	0.20	0.00	0.00	28.76
11	1953	0.92	0.37	0.00	0.70	2.45	4.40	11.52	7.72	11.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.23
12	1954	0.96	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.27	8.73	12.50	9.38	7.22	0.14	0.00	0.46	0.00	37.83
13	1955	0.70	0.15	0.12	0.35	1.30	0.91	20.22	13.55	2.37	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.81
14	1956	1.25	0.00	0.01	0.32	1.07	12.69	7.25	10.27	10.55	10.01	2.40	0.00	0.00	76.12
15	1957	3.74	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	3.59	7.93	6.93	2.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Rainy Days

(1) 1948—

January—5th and 22nd	2 days
February—18th	1 day
March—18th	1 day
May—7th	1 day
June—9th, 11th, 17th, 19th, 26th, 27th and 28th	7 days..
July—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 29th, 30th and 31st	18 days..
August—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th and 21st	12 days..
September—6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 14th, 20th, 24th and 27th	11 days..
October—2nd, 3rd, 10th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th and 21st	8 days..
November—23rd, 26th, 27th and 28th	4 days..

(2) 1949—

January—27th	1 day
February—4th, 5th and 6th	3 days..
April—11th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st	5 days..
May—2nd, 6th, 11th, 12th, 24th, 27th and 29th	7 days..
June—3rd, 10th, 11th, 18th, 29th and 30th	7 days..
July—1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 29th and 30th	19 days..
August—3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 29th and 30th	21 days..
September—1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 28th and 29th	11 days..
October—18th and 30th	2 days

(3) 1950—

January—26th	1 day
February—9th, 20th and 22nd	3 days..
March—7th, 8th, 22nd and 25th	4 days..
April—12th	1 day
May—19th	1 day..
June—5th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th and 29th	16 days
July—1st, 2nd, 5th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 27th and 29th	16 days.
August—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st	24 days

(7) 1954—

January—9th, 18th and 20th	3 days
February—20th and 24th	2 days.
May—2nd	1 day
June—1st, 13th, 14th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th and 30th	10 days.
July—3rd, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th	14 days.
August—8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 20th and 21st	10 days.
September—1st, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd and 29th	14 days
October—25th and 26th	2 days
December—29th	1 day.

(8) 1955—

January—17th, 22nd and 23rd	3 days.
February—4th and 10th	2 days.
March—26th	1 day
April—10th and 29th	2 days.
May—2nd and 22nd	2 days.
June—12th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd and 30th	6 days
July—2nd, 3rd, 5th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th and 31st	15 days.
August—7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 27th and 28th	12 days.
September—1st, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 16th, 17th and 30th	9 days.
October—1st, 2nd and 3rd	3 days

(9) 1956—

January—27th and 28th	2 days
March—12th	1 day
April—3rd	1 day
May—8th, 13th and 27th	3 days.
June—3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 30th	19 days.
July—3rd, 11th, 12th, 15th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 28th	9 days
August—1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 27th	11 days
September—4th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 26th and 27th	11 days
October—4th, 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th and 30th	8 days.
November—1st	1 day
December—Nil	

September—1st, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th and 23rd	9 days.
(4) 1951—	
January—20th	1 day.
March—25th	1 day.
April—18th and 20th .. .	2 days.
May—27th	1 day.
June—10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th and 30th	16 days
July—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 29th ..	13 days
August—1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 31st	13 days.
September—1st, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 20th and 30th .. .	11 days.
October—10th, 15th, 16th and 29th .	4 days.
November—2nd, 25th and 17th	3 days
(5) 1952—	
February—21st and 22nd .	2 days.
March—8th and 23rd	2 days.
April—16th, 21st and 26th .	3 days.
May—11th, 19th and 29th	3 days.
June—2nd, 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th .	14 days.
July—3rd, 5th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th .	14 days
August—1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 31st	14 days
September—1st, 4th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th	11 days
October—8th ..	1 day
November—3rd	1 day.
(6) 1953—	
January—15th, 16th and 23rd .. .	3 days
February—5th, 19th and 20th	3 days
April—29th	1 day
May—11th, 19th and 28th	3 days.
June—14th, 16th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th	9 days.
July—3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 25th, 28th and 30th .	17 days
August—4th, 7th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 27th	8 days
September—1st, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th	14 days

(7) 1954—

January—9th, 18th and 20th	3 days
February—20th and 24th	2 days.
May—2nd	1 day
June—1st, 13th, 14th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th and 30th	10 days.
July—3rd, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th	14 days.
August—8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 20th and 21st	10 days
September—1st, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd and 29th	14 days
October—25th and 26th	2 days
December—29th	1 day.

(8) 1955—

January—17th, 22nd and 23rd	3 days.
February—4th and 10th	2 days.
March—26th	1 day
April—10th and 29th	2 days.
May—2nd and 22nd	2 days.
June—12th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd and 30th	6 days.
July—2nd, 3rd, 5th 10th, 14th 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th 21st, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th and 31st	15 days
August—7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th 18th, 19th, 27th and 28th	12 days.
September—1st, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 16th, 17th and 30th	9 days.
October—1st 2nd and 3rd	3 days

(9) 1956—

January—27th and 28th	2 days.
March—12th	1 day
April—3rd	1 day
May—8th, 13th and 27th	3 days.
June—3rd, 4th, 6th 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 30th	19 days
July—3rd, 11th, 12th, 15th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 28th	9 days
August—1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 27th	11 days
September—4th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 26th and 27th	11 days
October—4th, 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th and 30th	8 days.
November—1st	1 day
December—Nil	

(10) 1957—

January—8th, 9th and 14th	.	.	3 days
March—5th and 11th	.	.	2 days
June—1st, 10th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 27th and 29th			7 days
July—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 11th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 28th			13 days
August—4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 27th and 31st			11 days
September—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 10th, 11th, 12th, 24th and 25th			8 days

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY

The territory now included within the district of Monghyr formed part of the Madhyadesa or 'Midland' of the first Aryan settlers. It has been identified with Modagri, a place mentioned in the Mahabharata, which was the capital of a kingdom in Eastern India near Vanga and Tamralipta*. In the Digvijaya Parva of Mahabharata we find the mention of Mada Giri which seems to be the same as Modagri†. Digvijaya Parva suggests that Monghyr was a monarchical State during early times. A passage in the Sabha parva describes Bhima's conquest in Eastern India and says that after defeating Karna, King of Anga, he fought battle at Modagri and killed its chief. It was also known as Mandagalyagiri after Maudgalya, a disciple of Buddha, who converted a rich merchant of this place into Buddhism. Buchanan says that it was the hermitage of 'Mudgala Muni'‡ and this tradition of Mudgalrishi still persists. Monghyr is called 'Mudgairi' in the Monghyr copperplate of Devapal**.

At the dawn of history, the present site of the town was apparently comprised within the kingdom of Anga, the capital of which was at Champi near Bhagalpur. Anga was the country to the east of Magadha and west of the chieftains who dwelt in the Rajmahal hills (*Parvatarasnat*). A portion of the west of the present district was included within the limits of the kingdom of Magadha. According to Pargiter@, Anga comprises the modern districts of Bhagalpur and Monghyr and also extended northwards up the river

* A Cunningham—'Ancient Geography of India' (1871) p. 476

† Mahabharat' Chapter VI, 29

‡ Martin—'Eastern India', II, 45

** I A. XI, Tradition ascribes the foundation of the town of Monghyr to Chandragupta after whom it was called Gupta Garh a name which has been found inscribed on a rock at Kastiharni Ghat at the north western corner of the present fort. It is asserted that Mudgalrishi lived there. The derivation of the name Monghyr has found the subject of much speculation. General Cunningham says 'I have strong suspicion however, that the original name may have been connected with Muns or Mundas who occupied this part of the country before the advent of the Aryans. It is however not impossible that this name may have been derived from the Sanskrit Muni as the hill is said to have been the residence of the Muni Mudgalrishi' (Reports Archaeological Survey XV 15 16, 18) Col Waddell says 'the place derives its name from this sage (Mudgal)' (Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1890 p. 191-92) Mr C. E. A. Oldham ICS a former Collector, suggests that it is possible that the original name was Munerika i.e. the house or abode of the Muni without any specification of his name that this name corrupted to Mungir and modern Munger is a further corruption.

@ J. A. B., 1897, 95

Kausiki and included the western portion of the district of Purnea. The area lying north of the Ganga was known as Anguttara*. Kasyapa Vibhandaka had his hermitage on the river Kausiki. His son Rishyasringa was beguiled by the courtesans of Anga into a boat and brought down the river to the capital—Magadha and Kausiki. Kachcha had rulers who are distinguished from Karna whose realm (Anga) clearly lay between the Magadhians and the Parvatavasins. The Anga dominion at one time included Magadha and the *Shanti parva* refers to an Anga king who sacrificed at Mount Vishnupada. In the epic period Magadha finds mention as a separate State. The success of Anga did not last long and about the middle of the sixth century B. C. Bimbisara of Magadha is said to have killed Brahmadatta, the last independent ruler of ancient Anga. Henceforth Anga becomes an integral part of the growing empire of Magadha. The Raja of Anga, in the time of Buddha, was simply a wealthy nobleman, of whom nothing was known except that he granted a pension to Brahmanas†. Its history is merged in that of the Magadhan Empire. An epigraphic evidence of the Gupta period proves that Monghyr was under the Guptas. To the reign of Buddhagupta (447–495 A. D.) belongs a copper plate‡ of A. D. 488/9 originally found at Mandapina in the Monghyr district.

HUEN TSIANG'S ACCOUNT

The first historical account of the district as now constituted appears in the Travels of Huen Tsiang, who visited the portions of it towards the close of the first half of the seventh century A. D. Travelling north eastward from the Gaya district the Chinese pilgrim arrived at a large and populous village to the south of the Ganga which contained many Brahmanical temples adorned with fine sculptures, as well as a great *stupa* where Buddha had preached for one night. Both the distance and direction mentioned in his account point to the vicinity of Sheikhpura. Leaving Sheikhpura Huen Tsiang travelled for 100 li, nearly 17 miles, to the east through forest and hills to a monastery in the village of Lomnilo, before which was a *stupa* erected by Asoka on a spot where Buddha had preached the law for three months. This place has been identified by General Cunningham with Rajaona, two miles to the north west of Lakhisarai, a township with several Buddhist antiquities. Thence the pilgrim proceeded to the east through "forests and gorges of wild mountains" (presumably Kharagpur hills) into the country of "I lan ha po fa to" (Hiranyaparvata, the golden mountain) of which he left a detailed account. Huen Tsiang observed "The country is regularly cultivated and rich in produce, flowers and fruit being abundant, the climate is agreeable and the manners of the people are simple and

* Rahul Sankrityan—*Buddha Charya*†

† Rhys Davids—*Buddhist India* (1903) pp. 23–24. Also see *The Age of Imperial Unity* p. 20.

‡ *Epigraphia Indica* XXII, 52.

honest "There are 10 Buddhist monasteries with about 4,000 priests, and a few Brahmanical temples occupied by various sectaries." The pilgrim's "I lan ha-po fa to" country is identified with the modern district of Monghyr. The pilgrim says, "in recent times the king of a neighbouring State had deposed the ruler and given the capital to the Buddhist brethren*. Its proximity of Magadha perhaps, justifies identifying this generous king of the 'border country' with Harsha. The capital, Hiranyaparvata, lay, on the southern bank of the Ganga, and close to it stood mount Hiranya, which "belched forth masses of smoke and vapour that obscured the light of the sun and moon." The position of this hill is determined from its proximity to the Ganga, to be Monghyr, and though no smoke now issues from any peak, the numerous hot springs in the hills within a few miles of the town point to former volcanic action. These hot springs were mentioned by Hiuen Tsiang. On the western frontier was another hill with two peaks, where Buddha once stayed in retreat during the three months of the rainy season and overcame the demon Vākula, and to the west were some springs, the water of which was 'extremely hot'. General Cunningham identified this place with the hill of Mahadeva, the hot springs being those of Blimbandh, but the other authorities locate the site at Uren, three miles west of the Kaira railway station.

The kingdom described by Hiuen Tsiang has been held by recognised authorities to have coincided approximately with the south eastern portion of the district of Monghyr with its capital at the site of the present town of Monghyr. It was bounded by the Ganga on the north, by forest-clad mountains on the south, probably extending in the latter direction as far as the Champa on the east. Probably the king of Champa had established two monasteries in its capital†.

MONGHYR UNDER THE PALAS

There is a gap in the history of the district for a few centuries after Hiuen Tsiang's visit. In the ninth century A. D., it passed under the rule of Pala kings, of whose dynasty there is an interesting relic in a copper plate known as the Monghyr plate, which was discovered among some ruins at Monghyr about 1780, and translated by Sir Charles Wilkins in 1781. The inscription, which is in Sanskrit opens with the name of Gopala who was a pious Buddhist. It mentions his son Dharampala, who according to Dr Hoernle‡ resided in Monghyr about 830 A. D., and records the conquest of Devapala, the third of the line. It eulogizes all three as powerful monarchs who conquered almost the whole of India. The immediate

* Watters II p 178 Beal II p 187

† S. Beal— "Buddhist Records of the Western World" (1884) Vol II, pp 184—191
A. Cunningham— "Ancient Geography of India" (1871) pp 576—78, Reports
Archæological Survey Vol. XV, pp 13—19

‡ Hoernle and Stark— "History of India" (1903) p 72.

purpose of this inscription seems to have been to record the grant by the king last named to a Brahman of certain land in Srinagara (the modern Patna) The place where it was executed was Mudagiri, i.e., Monghyr, 'where is encamped his victorious army, across whose river a bridge of boats is constructed for a road, which is mistaken for a chain of mountains, where immense herds of elephants, like thick black clouds, so darken the face of day, that people think it the season of the rains, whither the princes of the north send so many troops of horse, that the dust of their hoofs spread darkness on all sides whither so many mighty chiefs of Jambudwipa resort to pay their respects, that the earth sinks beneath the weight of the feet of their attendants'

Monghyr was an important centre during the Pala period of our history The Monghyr copperplate of Devapala is an important source of Pala history We learn from this copperplate that Dharampala (C 770-810) proceeded far beyond Kanauj in course of his military campaigns It refers to a campaign of Dharamapala along the foot of the Himalayas* Tripartite struggle for the supremacy over Kanauj was a dominant factor in the history of northern India after the dismemberment of Harsha's empire The main participants in the struggle were the Rashtrakutas the Gujar Pratihara and the Palas Even after the collapse of the power of Vatsaraj the Pratihara had not given up their political ambitions His son Dabghutt II made strenuous efforts to recover the lost grounds Having consolidated his position, he decided to try his strength against his mighty adversary Dharampala† According to Mr Das Gupta‡, Dharampala was defeated by Rashtrakuta Govinda III shortly before his encounter with Nagbhata The matter is still controversial Nagbhata marched against Kanauj where Dharamapala had placed his protege Chakrayudh on the throne Chakrayudh was defeated** and fled to Dharampala A battle between Dharampala and Nagbhata was now inevitable The Jodhpura inscription of the Pratihara Chief Banka@ informs that his father Kakka gained renown by fighting with the Gaudas at Mudagiri (Monghyr) It appears that a pitched battle was fought at Monghyr It is assumed that Kakka proceeded as far as Monghyr only to help his Suverain in a conflict to decide the fortunes of the Pratihara in Kanauj @@

Verse 15 of the Monghyr copperplate describes the empire of Devapala (C 810-850) as bounded by the Himalayas in the north and Ramesvara Setubandh in the south So far as we can judge from available records Devapala does not seem to have exercised

* Indian Culture IV, 266

† R. C. Mazumdar—Gujara Pratihara, pp 40-44

‡ J B and O R S—XII 361 ff

** E I XVIII, 168, Verse 9

@ Ibid Verse 24

@@ "The History of the Gujara Pratihara, pp 46 47 The Age of Imperial Kanauj, p 53

any direct administrative control over any territory outside Bengal and Bihar. The imperial territories outside these two provinces were governed by local rulers who acknowledged the sovereignty of the Palas. This is corroborated by verse 8 of the Monghyr copper plate. The glory and brilliance of the Pala empire did not long survive the death of the Devapala. He was succeeded by Vīgrahpala (850-54) or Surpala. He abdicated the throne in favour of Narayan Pala (854-908). The Bhagalpur plate of Narayan Pala was executed at Monghyr. The Pratihāras and Rāstrakutas had made their advance in Bihar. The disintegration of the Pala empire set in. Up to the 17th year of his reign, Mudagiri was in his possession as his grant was issued from that place in that year. From this grant we learnt that at least a part of Tirabhukti or Mithila continued to be in the possession of Narayan Pala*. The Pratihāra Kakka most probably gained renown during the siege of the famous fort of Mudagiri or Monghyr†. This Bhagalpur grant was issued when the King was staying at Mudagiri and records the grant of the village of Makutika to the temple of Shiva Kalaspotu, which was situated in the Kaksā Visaya of Tirabhukti. In Bhagalpur plate Narayan Pala is spoken of in the highest terms of praise, but his only notable work described in this record is the construction of a bridge of boats across the Ganga near Monghyr. Before his death he had recovered North Bengal and South Bihar from the Pratihāras. ("The Age of Imperial Kanauj", p 53)

While we have sufficient information about South Monghyr there was practically no historical knowledge of North Monghyr, i.e., Begusarai subdivision till recently. The two newly discovered Pala inscriptions at Nawlagarh‡ and some rare images of the Pala period at Jaimangalgurh point to the existence of Pala rule in North Monghyr also. The Nawlagarh inscription no 1 throws a flood of light on Pala history in North Bihar. An inscription indicating the location of Krimila Visaya has recently been discovered in South Monghyr. The Nawlagarh inscription no 1 also throws light on the Krimila Visaya in the Begusarai subdivision of Monghyr district as it is constituted today. The Nawlagarh inscription no 2 shows that there was a Buddhist Vihara at Nawlagarh. The Nawlagarh inscriptions belong to the reign of Vīgrahpala II or Vīgrahpala III. By the time of Rampala, the empire of the Palas had definitely broken into pieces. Up to the end of Vīgrahpala III's reign Mithila and consequently North Monghyr was included in the Pala dominions. How long the Palas continued to rule in that region is difficult to

* Indian Antiquary, XV, p 306, 130

† R. D. Banerjee—Palas of Bengal, p 59. Bhagalpur plate commemorates a great meeting of the princess armies subject to the Pala King in his victorious camp at Mudagiri.

‡ Discovered by Prof. R. K. Choudhury of G. D. College, Begusarai. An article on Nawlagarh inscription has been published by Dr. D. C. Sarkar in the Journal of the Bihar Research Society (1951).

say Nanyadeva of the Karnata dynasty began his rule in 1094 A. D. and his dynasty ruled over that area for a long period

Another power with which Rampala had come into conflict was the Gahadwalas. As the boundary of the Gahadwala kingdom probably touched that of the Palas, hostility between the two was natural. The first reference to the conflict occurs in the Rahan grant (1109 A. D.) which describes Govinda Chandra, son of reigning Gahadwala king Madanpala, as 'terrific in cleaning the frontal gloves of arrays of irresistible mighty large elephants from Ganda'*. This was probably due to the decadent state of the Pala monarchy, whose power had been considerably weakened by the rise of the Senas of Bengal and the Karnats of Mithila. The Gahadwalas took advantage of the death of Rampala and the consequent weakness of the Palas. It is evident from the Lar plates† that Gahadwala Govinda Chandra was in occupation of Monghyr in 1146 A. D. When in residence at Mudagiri after bathing in the Ganga on the occasion of Akshyatritya festival, he granted the village of Patacavada in Pandala Pattala to Thakkura Sudhare. It seems that Madanpala recovered Monghyr about 1157-58 A. D. and in his war with the Gahadwala he received valuable assistance from his kinsman, Chandradeva, Lord of Anga. The Yaynagar image inscription shows that in the fourteenth year of his reign, he ruled over the Monghyr district‡. How and when the Pala rule came to an end cannot be definitely stated.

The Pala kings were earnest Buddhists, and the dynasty appears never to have relinquished its allegiance to Buddhism. Owing to their patronage, Bihar, including Monghyr remained the last refuge of Buddhism in Northern India up to the time of Muhammadan conquest, and numerous Buddhist remains dating back to the time of Pala kings are still extant in the district. According to tradition, the last Hindu ruler was Indradyumna (Pala), who was reigning at the time of Muhammadan conquest and forts attributed to him are still pointed out in the district. The Pala inscriptions also contain reference to the worship of Shiva. In the Bhagalpur plate of Narayan Pala, executed at Monghyr, there is record of a gift made by the king to Shivabhattarak and his worshippers the Pasupatas. As is evident from this grant, Saivism was of the Pashupata sect. A rare image of Shiva Parvati unearthed at Jainangalgarh is a very important specimen of the Pala period**. Parvati with her right hand placed on the right shoulder of her consort is seated on the Sukhasan pose on the left thigh of Shiva. This image shows that Buddhism, Sakti and Tantra cults held sway in the district.

* *Indian Antiquary*", XVIII, 16, 18, line 9

† E. I. VII, 98-99

‡ A. S. R. III, 125. Recently a new inscription of Madanpala has been discovered by Dr. D. C. Sarkar and published by him in the *'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal'* (1951)

** *G. D. College Bulletin* no. 22 pp. 18-19

MUHAMMADAN RULE

Till the advent of the Muslim rule in India, Monghyr was under the sway of the Hindu rulers. As the eastward expansion of the Muslim power through North Bihar was at this time barred by the powerful Hindu Kingdom of Mithila under the Karnatak dynasty, the momentum of the Muslim offensive under the leadership of Muhammad Bakhtiyar acquired a greater driving force in South Bihar*. Muhammad Bakhtiyar's starting point in Bengal expedition was Bihar. As regards his possession in Bihar, we must hold that from the foot of the Vindhya hills in the Mirzapur district along the southern bank of the Ganga right up to the Rajmahal hill his authority was predominant in greater part of South Bihar, and in addition he perhaps also held the riverain tracts on the north bank of the Ganga from the mouth of the Gandak river to that of the Kosi. Throughout this riverain tract of Bhagalpur and Monghyr lying north of the Ganga lay the highway of communication between Bengal and Oudh down to the middle of the fourteenth century†. It is evident that Monghyr came under the control of Muhammad Bakhtiyar. In 1225 A. D. Sultan Iltutmish sent force against Bihar to wrest it from Sultan Gyasuddin Khilji of Bengal and he himself appeared with the intention of conquering Bihar and Bengal. The progress of Sultan was arrested probably at Monghyr. A treaty of peace was concluded between the two. Malik Alauddin Jani was put in charge of Bihar. The Lakhisarai Inscription‡ gives us the name of an officer of Shamsuddin Firuz Shah of Bengal and on the basis of this particular evidence we can say that Monghyr was under the control of the Bengal Sultan between 1301 and 1322. It is likely that Shamsuddin Firuz Shah after having become Sultan of Lakhnawati transferred his loyal servant, Zauddin Ulugh Khan (of Lakhisarai inscription) from Monghyr to Satgaon. Shamsuddin reigned over the whole of Bihar. Mohammad Tughluq annexed Monghyr to Delhi for sometime.

The whole of Northern India about 1342 was in a state of turmoil owing to the violences and caprices of Mohammad Bin Tughluq. Samsuddin Illyas Shah of Bengal took advantage of this opportunity and he established his sway over Bihar**. He was succeeded by his son Sikandar Shah. Firoz Tughlak invaded Bengal in 1359 but had to conclude a treaty with Sikandar Shah favourable to the latter. Rukmuddin Barburk (1459-1474) brought under

* Sir Jadunath Sarkar—History of Bengal*, Vol 2, p 127

† *Ibid* p 13

‡ An interesting relic of the rule of the Bengal Sultan still exists at Lakhisarai in a basalt state of stone with an inscription bearing a date corresponding to 1297 which mentions Rukmuddin Kaiqas (C 1291-1302) and a Governor named Feroz Aitgin who is referred to as second Alexander and as the Khan of Khans of the East and of China.

** See article on him in Essays presented to Sir Jadunath Sarkar edited by Dr H R Gupta p 56 and History of Mithila (pp 406-407)

his sway some portions of Bhagalpur and Monghyr. The districts west of Monghyr lay within the Jaunpur Kingdom as is proved by Muhammad Shargis inscription found in the Bihar district. A portion of Monghyr was under Shargis kingdom. Monghyr was already a flourishing town then. After 1489 Sikandar Lodi overran Bihar as far as the frontier of Bengal. In 1494 Sikandar completely defeated Hussain of Jaunpur and sent him flying for refuge to Bengal. Lodi Empire extended up to the border of Bihar. Hussain Shah of Bengal sent an army under his son Danyal to intercept the advancing Lodi invaders and the two armies stood facing each other at Barh. Very soon negotiations for peace were opened. Inscriptions found in Monghyr and Bihar prove that in South Bihar Hussain's control extended to within a few miles of Patna. The occupation of the whole of North Bihar including the trans Gunda area is proved by an inscription in Saran*. Prince Danyal appears to have represented his father as Governor of Eastern Bihar. He repaired the fortifications of Monghyr and built in 1497 the vault over the shrine of Shah Nafah the Muhammadan patron of the town. This is shown by an inscription put up by Danyal on the eastern wall of the *dargah* or shrine just within the southern gate of the fort.

Nasrat Shah succeeded Hussain Shah in Bengal in 1519. He conquered Tirhut and made his brother-in-law Makhdum Alam Governor of Hajipur. He then crossed the Ganga and took possession of the fort and the district of Monghyr which he entrusted to one of his best generals named Kutub Khan. He possessed an unusual amount of diplomatic ability. He exerted himself to build up an eastern kingdom and make Bihar a centre of resistance against the Mughals. Monghyr became the headquarters of the Bihar army of the rulers of Gaur and we learn from the Memoirs of Babar that when Babar invaded Bihar Monghyr was under the charge of a prince. By professing neutrality he took care to disarm Mughal hostility. Babar sent envoys to Nasrat's court for peace after the battle on the Gogra (1529-30). The Mughal envoy returned and brought letters from Wazir Hussain Khan and the Sahzada of Monghyr who signified their consent on behalf of Nasrat to Babar's term of agreement. Another king of this dynasty Mahmud lacked imagination and failed to make a correct appraisal of the situation. Kutub Khan appears to have remained at Monghyr until the accession of Mahmud†. Kutub was one of the best generals of his time. In 1533 he was the Governor of Monghyr. Mahmud despatched him for conquering the country of Bihar. Makhdum Alam roused the standard of revolt in concert with Sher Shah. Kutub Khan was

* J. A. S. B. 1874 304 (Inscript on found at Saran). A later inscript on found at the same place bearing Hussain Shah's name is noted 1503.

† Recently an inscript on of Nasrat Shah was found at Mathan. P. S. Begusarai and noted by Prof. R. K. Chaudhury. It was kept in the court compound. It may be assumed that Nasrat Shah crossed Ganga in the Begusarai subdivision.

‡ Sarkar's History of Bengal Vol II p. 159.

directed to advance against the rulers Sher defeated and slew Kutub Khan. It immensely damaged the military prestige of Mahmud. In 1534 again a powerful army in command of Ibrahim Khan moved out of Monghyr against Sher. The battle took place in the narrow plain of Surajgarha, a few miles east of Barh, bounded on three sides by the Ganga, the Kiul and the Kharagpur hills. Mahmud's army was routed and Ibrahim Khan was slain. He occupied territories up to Kiul river. The battle of Surajgarha placed Sher firmly on the road to kingship*. By 1535 Sher completed his annexation up to Bhagalpur. He captured the fort of Rohtas and marching to Monghyr, put Humayun's noblemen there to the sword. He raced towards Bengal with only 500 men by the route along the Ganga, bypassed Humayun near Patna and rowed away from Monghyr in 48 hours only. When Humayun reached Monghyr he received intelligence of the occupation of the passes at Garhi by Jalalkhan†. During the subsequent war between Sher Shah and Humayun, Monghyr was the scene of a battle between the Afghans and the Emperor, in which Sher Shah captured Dilwar Khan, son of Daulat Khan Lodi, and ancestor of Khan Jahan Lodi‡.

From before 1545, Monghyr was under the control of Mian Sulaiman, an Afghan of the Kararani tribe, who held South Bihar for Islam Shah, son of Sher Shah. Under Islam Shah's successor, Muhammad Adil Shah, Sulaiman Kararani, desirous of establishing his independence, entered into an alliance with Bahadur Shah, king of Bengal, and when Adil Shah retired before the advancing army of Akbar, Bahadur Shah and Sulaiman attacked him near Surajgarha, west of Monghyr, and defeated and killed him (1557). In 1563, Sulaiman became the ruler of Bengal and Bihar, but acknowledged the suzerainty of Akbar. Daud Shah succeeded Sulaiman in 1572 and refused to pay tribute to the Mughal Emperor. In 1574 Akbar invaded Bihar and conquered it. Surajgarha, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Kahalgaon fell in succession and the Mughals reached near the Teligari Pass. Daud fled to Orissa. He was defeated at the battle of Tukaroi (3rd March 1575 A. D.). Mughal rule was substituted for Afghan rule.

In 1580, the great Bengal military revolt commenced, and Monghyr was for some time the headquarters of Akbar's officers in their expeditions against the rebels. Bengal and Bihar were formerly cut off from the Empire of Akbar. Patna was recovered. A vast force of loyalists came together near Patna. Tarsum Khan and Todar Mal were their supreme commanders. The imperialists reached Monghyr on 19th May, 1580 and their first success was the capture of enemy boats laden with munitions west of Monghyr. Raja Todar Mal took possession of Monghyr.

* Dr K. R. Quainungo's 'Sher Shah', pp. 115-116, regarding the importance of this battle which sounded the death knell of Muslim monarchy in Bengal.

† 'Akbarnama', p. 333 (Eng. Translation).

‡ S. K. Banerji's 'Humayun Padshah', pp. 221-223.

Of three powerful semi-independent zamindars of Bihar in Akbar's time, viz, Raja Gajapati of Hajipur, Raja Puran Mal of Gidhaur, and Raja Sangram Singh of Kharagpur, two belonged to the district of Monghyr. Gajapati was totally ruined by the imperialists whom he opposed, but Puran Mal and Sangram wisely submitted, and assisted Akbar's generals in the wars of the Afghans. When the great mutiny of Bihar and Bengal broke out, Sangram Singh joined the rebels secretly but submitted later on when Shahbaz Khan marched against him. He handed over to Shahbaz the strong fort of Mahda, a place about six miles north of Kharagpur. His son was detained as a hostage at the court. After the final occupation of Bihar, Raja Man Singh was appointed the Governor. He administered the province well*. His hand first fell upon Raja Puran Mal of Gidhaur (in Jammu subdivision), who had declared independence. Man Singh marched to Gidhaur and easily captured its mud fort with all the Raja's treasure. Puran Mal submitted and gained his pardon by offering a tribute. In 1596 Puran Mal built the great temple of Baidyanath, wherein Sanskrit inscription refers to him a Tripati.

KHARAGPUR

Kharagpur was at one time a great principality extending from the south of Monghyr to the south of Bhagalpur and Santhal Parganas. We have seen above that Sangram Singh had submitted. He was beaten into making submission and paying tribute by Man Singh. Sangram remained submissive till Akbar's death (1605). The accession of Jahangir and rebellion of Prince Khusru led him to make a final attempt to recover his independence and he collected his forces which according to Jahangir's memoirs consisted of about 4,000 horse and a large army of foot soldiers. Jahangir Kuli Khan Lala Beg, Governor of Bihar, lost no time in opposing him, and Sangram, whilst defending himself was killed by a gunshot (1606). Sangram's son, whom Jahangir called his favourite, was not immediately installed but had to wait till 1615, when on his conversion to Islam he was allowed to return to Bihar. Like several other Rajas, he retained after his conversion the title of his ancestors and was known as Raja Rozafzun (i.e., daily growing in power). He remained faithful to the service of the emperor and in 1628, when Jahangir died, was a commander of 1,500 foot soldiers and 700 horse. On Shahjahan's accession, Raja Rozafzun entered active service. He accompanied Mahabat Khan to Kabul, in the war with Nazr Muhammad Khan, King of Balkh, and served later in the expedition against Jhujhar Singh Bundela. In the sixth year of Shahjahan's reign he took part under Shuja in the siege of Parendah, and was promoted in 1634-35 to a command of 2,000 foot and 1,000 horse. He died soon afterwards in the same year and was succeeded by his son Raja Bihruz, who served in the siege of Kandahar and was

Commander of 700 foot and 700 horse under Shahjahan. He added to the already large estate being rewarded for his services by the grant of Chakla Midnapur in which he built a town and named it Kharagpur. There is a ruined palace built by him, adjoining which is a three-domed mosque. A marble slab in one of the walls shows that it was built in 1656 A. D. during the reign of Emperor Shahjahan. He died in 1665.

CIVIL WAR (1657-58).

Shah Shuja was the second son of Shahjahan, and Governor of Bengal. On hearing of the serious illness of his father in 1657, he raised the standard of revolt and claimed the throne. His capital was at Rajmahal, but Monghyr formed the centre from which he directed his preparations and to which he returned next year after his defeat. In June, 1658 Aurangzeb made an attempt to conciliate Shuja by granting him the province of Bihar in addition to Bengal. Thus the old Presidency of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa as known in British Indian History from 1804 to 1911 was first formed in Shuja's time. Monghyr came into prominence during this period of civil war. On the basis of Jaipur records Prof. Qanungo* says that soon after the march of the imperial army Shuja wrote to Dara asking for the grant of Monghyr which formed a part of Dara's province of Bihar. Dara was prepared to give away the fort of Monghyr provided that the fortress was dismantled and Shuja's son did not reside there. Murad's letter refers to the designs of Dara to deprive Shuja of Monghyr showing that this part of Bihar was virtually in the hands of Shuja†. Shuja being pursued by the imperialists, pushed on to Monghyr where being protected by the strong defences, he held out till the adverse circumstances of Dara compelled him to send urgent letters to his son to make peace with his uncle. As a result of the treaty of 1685 though Monghyr was added to Shuja's viceroyalty, he was not allowed to reside there. In 1659 Daud Khan took charge of the province of Bihar. Mir Jumla and Prince Muhammad pursued Shuja to Monghyr. Shuja was forced by the treachery of Raja Bihruz Khan of Kharagpur and Khaja Kamal of Birbhum to abandon Monghyr in 1659‡. Daud Khan himself proceeded to neutralise the increased activity of the Shujaites in Monghyr and Bhagalpur. Raja Bihruz was made in charge of the whole country up to Monghyr. He carried the imperial army through the hills and jungles south-east of Monghyr fort. Shuja lost grip all over Monghyr. Raja Bihruz also helped the Mughal Governor against the Cheros of Palamau and other parts of Chotanagpur.

FOREIGNERS' ACCOUNT.

During the reign of Governor Ibrahim Khan, there was a devastating famine which continued from 1670 to 1672. The Dutch

* "Dara Shikoh".

† Quoted by Prof. Askari in *J. E. R. S.*, XXXI, Pl. IV.

‡ Dr. J. N. Sarkar's "Life of Mir Jumla" for details.

traveller, De Graafe, who journeyed from Monghyr to Patna in November, 1670 gives a picture of the horrible scenes. J. Marshall got the first evidence of the famine at Dunra, west of Jaintpur, in Monghyr where he saw a great number of corpses in the Ganga and on its shores and on the following day he was begged to purchase a Muslim land for half a rupee. He gives us some interesting details about Monghyr. From Bhagalpur it took him a week to arrive at Monghyr. At Monghyr he inspected Shah Shuja's palace built on the west side of the fort. He describes it "as a very large house where the king (Shuja) lived, walled next to the river, for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ kos with bricks and stones with a wall about 15 yards high". He entered the first gate but was stopped at the other within which he saw "two elephants carved in stones and very large and handsomely". He inspected the palace more closely during a second visit in the following year for he was not suffered to go within as on the first occasion. This was due to the recent misadventure of two Dutchmen, De Graafe* and Oasterhoff, who paid the penalty of their antiquarian interest by being taken as spies. They were imprisoned for making a plan of the palace and noting details regarding fortifications. They were released after seven weeks in November, 1670 by paying to the Nawab of Patna a fine of one thousand rupees. At the north end of the town, Marshall found a great garden and at the south end he saw several thatched houses and several tombs and mosques. He says "The town stands upon an ascent, the river bank by it being eight or ten yards high. The brick wall by the river side at the south end of Monghyr was about 5 yards high and 20 yards long with a little tower at each end and each wall is a fortification to put guns in it. Towards the close of the 18th century† we find that Monghyr was merely a station of "power magazine established there . . . for the most vivid lightening often falls about Monghyr, attracted by the iron-ore which abounds in the neighbouring hills, and if it fell upon the magazine the whole fort would certainly be destroyed by the explosion". It was noted for its good climate and Warren Hastings speaks of the delightful change of atmosphere from that of Bengal. About the first, Bishop Heber wrote: "Monghyr presents an imposing appearance. . . . The fort. . . . is now dismantled. Its gates, battlements, etc., are all of Asiatic architecture, and precisely similar to those of the Khitairagorod of Moscow"‡. Miss Emily Eden was much struck by the inland tables and boxes . . . of such curious workmanship.** Fanny Parkes wrote: "Among the articles manufactured here, the black vases for flowers turned into white wood, and lacquered whilst on the lathe with

* Regarding Graafe's imprisonment at Monghyr and his account of the Fort see Mr. C. E. A. W. Odham—"An old inscription of the Monghyr Fort"—Bengal, Past and Present, Vol. XXVII, Part II.

† "Travels in India a Hundred Years Ago" (1893).

‡ R. Heber—"Narrative of Journey through the Upper Province of India" (1827).

** Miss Eden—"Up the Country".

sealing wax, are pretty" Joseph Hooker describes Monghyr as "by far the prettiest town" Monghyr is celebrated for its iron manufacture, especially of muskets, in which respect it is the Birmingham of Bengal"

MUHAMMADAN GOVERNORS

There is little other information regarding Monghyr at this time. There are however a few references to the district in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, according to which Sarkar Monghyr consisted of 31 *mahals* or *parganas*, paying a revenue of 10,96,25,981 *dams* (40 *dams* being equal to one Akbarshahi rupee), and furnished 2,150 horses and 50,000 foot soldiers. These numbers, however, are perhaps nominal rather than real, for south of Monghyr the country was mostly in the hands of the Rajas of Kharagpur. *Pargana* Monghyr itself was assessed at 808,907½ *dams*. Monghyr was also for some time the residence of Raja Man Singh, who reconquered Bengal and Orissa, and it was here that a pious Musalman, named Shah Daulat, whom Man Singh favoured, tried his best to convert him to Islam. During the reign of Jahangir, Kasim Khan, brother of Ali ud din Islam Khan, was in charge of Sarkar Monghyr, and on the death of his brother, became Governor of Bengal. Two *jagirdars* of Monghyr are also mentioned, Sardar Khan and Hissan Ali Khan (1619). In the first year of Shah Jahan's reign (1628) Saiyad Muhammad Mukhtar Khan was appointed *tayuldar* of Monghyr. He distinguished himself in a campaign against the Raja of Dumraon about 1637. Another *tayuldar* was Mahaldar Khan.

The historians of Aurangzeb's reign mention only one other event in connection with Monghyr, viz., the death and burial at Monghyr of the poet Mulla Muhammad Saiyad, who wrote under the *nom de plume* of Ashraf. He was the son of Mulla Muhammad Saleh of Mazandaran, near the Caspian Sea and stood in high favour with prince Azim us Shah, Aurangzeb's grandson, who was Governor of Bihar. He had also been for a long time the teacher of Zebunnissa Begum, Aurangzeb's daughter, herself a poetess of repute. In 1704, while on his way from Bengal to Mecca the poet died at Monghyr, where his tomb is still pointed out.

LAST DAYS OF MUHAMMADAN RULES

In the seventeenth century Monghyr appears to have been a well fortified town with fine buildings, and Nicolas Graafe, a Dutch physician who visited it in the beginning of that century, was struck with admiration at the sight of its white walls, towers and minarets. In 1745, however, when Mustapha Khan, a rebellious general of Ali Vardi Khan, advanced against it in his march northwards, the fort was "a ruinous fortification which though quite neglected had some renown. Mustapha Khan found it sufficient to detach a brigade under his nephew Abdul Rasul Khan for its capture. The Governor and his little garrison put themselves upon their

defence; but as the fortifications did not seem to deserve much ceremony in that officer's opinion he alighted and putting himself at the head of his men, mounted to the assault. In an instant the besiegers got upon the wall, and seized the fort; but their leader was killed outright by a stone that fell upon him, on its being loosened by one of the garrisons who stood above. The place was not such an acquisition as could compensate the loss of so valiant an officer."* Mustapha Khan, following the custom of those days, had music played to celebrate his success, took some guns and ammunition from the fort, and after a halt of three days marched off towards Patna.

The Chakwars.

In the period of the break of the Mughal Empire, Bihar came to be joined to the Subah of Bengal, which had become practically independent of Delhi. Nawab Shujauddin had appointed Ali Vardi, so long Fauzdar of Rajmahal, the Deputy Governor of Bihar. The provinces had begun to raise their heads and within every province local chieftains took advantage of the chaotic political situation. The Chakwars of Samho† (Begusarai subdivision) had asserted their independence. The Company records mention Bakhtawar Singh as the king of the Chakwars.‡ They stopped payment to the Government. Their strength lay in the fact that they controlled the river route from Monghyr to Patna. They extorted a huge amount from the European traders. There was a fierce engagement for sometime between the European traders and the Chakwars. From the Company records, it appears that the old brave Raja of Chakwars died in 1730. Raja Bakhtawar Singh issued various grants which were later on honoured by Ali Vardi and respected by the Company. In 1730, Raja Ruko Singh Chakwar plundered the Pharkiya Pargana and treacherously murdered the Raja. Ali Vardi thoroughly suppressed the Chakwars. Monghyr formed his base of operations for the recovery of Bihar.

Maratha Raids.

Monghyr did not escape Maratha raids. The second Maratha invasion under Raghuji Bhonsla occurred in 1743.** Balaji marched into Bihar. Advancing through Tekari, Gaya, Manpur, Bihar and Monghyr he reached Bhagalpur, where the brave widow of Sarfaraz's general, Ghaus Khan, was determined to defend herself and defied the respective sphere of influence of the Peshwa and the Bhonsla.

* *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*, Raymond's translation (Vol. I, p. 491).

† G. D. College Bulletin, no. 3, edited by Prof. R. K. Chaudhury.

‡ Wilson—"Early Annals of English in Bengal", Vol. III, p. 371 of *Riyaz-us-Salat*, pp. 36, 296; Gladwin—"A narrative of the Transactions in Bengal", p. 79; Holwell—"Interesting Historical Events", pp. 68—70; K. K. Dutta—"Allivardi and His Times", pp. 14-15, pp. 137-138.

** Dr. Jadunath Sarkar—"Bihar and Orissa during the fall of the Mughal Empire", p. 47.

During the fourth Maratha invasion in 1744 Raghuji passed through the hills of Kharagpur

Eyre Coote's Expedition

In 1757, Eyre Coote came to Monghyr at the head of a British force on his way up the Ganga in pursuit of Jean Law, the French adventurer and partisan of Siraj ud-daula, who was flying northwards after the battle of Plassey. Major Coote reached Monghyr late at night on the 20th July and requisitioned a number of boats, which the *Dewan* or Governor of the place supplied. He was not allowed, however, to enter the fort, for when he approached the walls, he received a significant hint, the garrison lining the ramparts with their matches and port fires lighted. Coote, accordingly, was obliged to resume his march without making any further attempt to examine the fort.

Caillaud's Campaign

Nearly three years later, in the spring of 1760, the army of the Emperor Shah Alam marched through the south of the district, pursued by Major Caillaud and Miran. In this, his second invasion of Bihar, the Emperor had been defeated by Caillaud and Miran at Sirpur on the 22nd February. The Emperor withdrew to Bilh town, while the victorious army remained between Barh and Patna. When on the 29th of February the allies began to follow up the army of the Emperor, marching on Bihar through Chandi, Shah Alam doubled in a northerly direction to the Ganga, with the intention of capturing Murslidabad in Bengal. Caillaud pursued him, and the Emperor fearing that if he attempted to reach Bengal by the Ganga road he would be overtaken and intercepted at Sakrigali, turned towards the south-east at Lakhisarai, and made for Bengal through Malepur, Chakai and Deogarh, through hills and jungles never before traversed by any army, little known to either his own or the Nawab's troops, and to the English a perfect *terra incognita*. Major Caillaud, who dared not leave the young Nawab unsupported, was compelled to follow the same course, and disembarquing his troops once more, joined Miran and commenced the pursuit. The route was most difficult, through thick jungle of the wildest description, across unbridged streams, over hills and valleys, and through difficult and unknown passes. For days together a road had to be made for the field pieces, and the troops suffered extreme fatigue and privations, which they bore without a murmur, their zeal and exertions, coupled with the energy and resource of the commander and his officers, surmounted all obstacles and enabled them to keep so closely on the track of the enemy, that on the 22nd March, having passed through one of the most difficult defiles, they arrived on the ground which the Emperor had quitted only two days before*.

* A. Broome—History of the Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army" (1850), Vol. I pp. 288-289

period. A picturesque account of the Court of the Nawab at Monghyr has been left in the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*. Two days a week he sat in a public hall of audience and personally dispensed justice listening patiently to the complaints and grievances of everyone, however humble his position, nor dared anyone in his court touch a bribe or advocate an unjust claim. The poor, defenceless landholders who had been dispossessed of their villages and hereditary estates by rapacious zamindars, now found that the day of redress was come; for their claims were heard, and, if proved, mace-bearers were sent to see the oppressed reinstated in their estates and the defenceless righted. The Nawab, indeed, was a terror both to his enemies and to wrong-doers. He also honoured learning and the learned, and welcomed scholars and savants to his court, so that friends and foes alike respected him. The author of the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin* admits, it is true, that his temper had been soured and rendered suspicious by perpetual treasons, duplicities and infidelities, and that he was "ever prone to confiscation of properties, confinement of persons and effusion of blood. Nevertheless, it was acknowledged on all hands, that he had admirable qualifications that balanced his bad ones", and made him "an incomparable man, indeed, and the most extraordinary prince of his age".

Soon after he had established himself at Monghyr, Mir Kasim Ali came into collision with the English. The first quarrel appears to have been caused by the tactless conduct of Mr. Ellis, who was in charge of the English factory at Patna. A vague report having reached the latter that two English deserters were concealed at Monghyr, he sent a company of sepoy's under a sergeant to search the fort. They were refused admission, and this was construed by Mr. Ellis into an act of hostility, while the Nawab complained of the insult offered to his authority. A long dispute followed, which was finally compromised by Lieutenant Ironside, the Town Major of Calcutta, being specially sent to search the fort with the permission of the Nawab. No deserters were found, the only European in the place being an old French invalid. About the same time (April, 1762) Warren Hastings was sent up from Calcutta to arrange terms between the Nawab and Ellis, and was favourably received by the former in his camp at Sasaram. Ellis, however, refused to meet Warren Hastings at Patna and stayed in his house at Singhia, fifteen miles away, saying that he could not be expected to pay him the compliment of travelling such a distance in the hot weather.

Trade Disputes.

A more serious dispute now arose. The East India Company had long enjoyed exemption from the heavy transit dues levied on inland trade. After the battle of Plassey the European servants of the Company began to trade extensively on their own account, and to claim a similar exemption for all goods passing under the Company's flag and covered by a *dastak* or certificate signed by the

Governor or one of the factory agents. The English had then a great advantage over their rivals and most of the trade passed into their hands or was carried on under their name. Great abuses followed, for the English in some cases lent their names to Indians for a consideration and the latter used the same *dastaks* over and over again or forged them. If the Nawab's collectors attempted to check these malpractices, they were seized by the nearest English agent, confined and punished. Everyone who could hire a *dastak* or fly the Company's flag, did so; and matters were made worse by the rascality of their Bengali employees, who had previously been walking about in rags at Calcutta, but now assumed the dress of sepoys, and flogged and imprisoned those who refused to buy from or sell to them at their own price. On his way to Patna in 1762, Warren Hastings says that every boat he met on the river bore the Company's flag, and became aware of the oppression of the people by the *gumashtas* and the Company's servants. "Most of the petty towns and sarais", he wrote, "were deserted at our approach, and the shops shut up from the apprehension of the same treatment from us".

Vansittart's Visit.

Mir Kasim bitterly complained that his chief source of revenue had been taken from him and that his authority was completely disregarded. Eventually, in October 1762, Mr. Vansittart, the Governor, left Calcutta in order to try and conclude a settlement that would be satisfactory to both parties. He found the Nawab at Monghyr smarting under the injuries and insults he had received; but at length it was agreed that the servants of the Company should be allowed to carry on the inland private trade, on payment of a fixed duty of nine per cent on all goods—a rate much below that paid by other merchants—and that, to prevent abuses, *dastaks* should be signed by the agents of the factories through whose circles the goods passed, and also countersigned by the Nawab's collectors. Mir Kasim agreed to those terms very unwillingly.

A picturesque account of Vansittart's visit is given by Ghulam Hunsain Khan, the author of the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*, who held a *jagir* in the district. The Nawab advanced six miles to meet Vansittart and assigned for his residence a house which Gurghin Khan had erected on "the hill of Sitakund". He gave him a public reception in the hall of audience, where he seated him on his own *masnad*, entertained him with a *nach*, paraded troops in his honour, and, last but not least, "complimented him with a variety of curious and costly presents suitable to the occasion". It is said, indeed, that Vansittart received five lakhs of rupees, of which three lakhs were paid to him at Monghyr, and that he allowed two ladies who accompanied him to go into the *zanana* of Mir Kasim Ali and receive presents of jewelry.*

* "Armenians in India" by Meshroob Jacob Seth (Calcutta).

The Company's Claims

After staying a week at Monghyr, Vansittart returned to Calcutta in January, 1763, only to find that the agreement concluded with the Nawab was repudiated. The Nawab, however, had sent copies of the Governor's agreement to all his officers directing that it should be acted upon at once. The consequence was that the English goods then in transit were stopped and duty claimed upon them. The Council were indignant, and at once declared that all goods except salt, covered by an English *dastak*, should pass free of duty. The Nawab, on the other hand protested at this breach of faith and passed orders abolishing all transit duties and throwing open the whole inland trade. The English regarded this as an act of hostility, and preparations were made to resist his measures and declare war against him, if he persisted. But as a last resource, it was agreed that a deputation, headed by Messrs Amyatt and Hay, should be sent to Monghyr to endeavour to arrange terms with the Nawab. Mr Ellis was informed of this measure and warned to commit no act of aggression, even should the mission be unsuccessful, until Amyatt and Hay were well out of the Nawab's power.*

Negotiations with the Nawab

The party reached Monghyr on the 14th May 1763 and opened up negotiations, but it was soon seen that they were unwelcome. At the first interview the Nawab, offended at the rough and overbearing manner in which he was addressed by the English linguist, refused to speak to him. At subsequent interviews he himself never failed to do something to offend the English and he steadily refused to come to terms. The envoys were kept under strict surveillance, and on one occasion, when some of the party wished to ride out from Monghyr, they found their way barred by the Nawab's soldiers with lighted matches ready to fire. Unfortunately too just at this time, English cargo boats from Calcutta were detained at Monghyr, and five hundred muskets intended for the factory at Patna were found hidden under the cargo. The Nawab insisted that the English intended to seize the fort and the city of Patna, and demanded that their detachment at the factory should be withdrawn to Monghyr, where they would be checked by his own troops, otherwise, he would declare war. In the meantime, he permitted Mr Amyatt and others of the party to leave for Calcutta, but detained Mr Hay and Mr. Gulston as hostages for the safety of his officers who had been arrested by the English.

Outbreak of War

A final rupture was now imminent and this was brought about by the precipitate action of Mr Ellis, who, in the belief that war was in any case inevitable, seized the city of Patna, on hearing that a

* *Armenians in India* by Meshroob Jacob Seth (Calcutta) has extracts of letters from the Chief and Council at Patna (Ellis Lushington and Howitt) to the Governor and Council in Calcutta.

detachment was advancing from Monghyr to reinforce the Nawab's garrison. The Nawab retaliated promptly, reinforcements were hurried up, and the fort quickly recaptured. The news of this success gave Kasim Ali the keenest delight. Though it was the middle of the night, he immediately ordered music to strike and awaken the whole town of Monghyr. At daybreak the doors of the public hall were thrown open, and every one hastened to offer him congratulations. He now proclaimed the outbreak of war between himself and the English, and directed his officers to put the latter to the sword wherever found. In pursuance of this general order, Mr. Amyatt was killed at Murshidabad, and the factory at Cossimbazar was stormed. The survivors surrendered, and were sent to Monghyr to join their unfortunate companions from Patna.

The Nawab's Prisoners

A British force under Major Adams quickly advanced against the Nawab, and defeated his troops at Suti. On hearing of this defeat, he sent his Begams and children to the fort at Rohtas and set out himself, accompanied by Gurgun Khan, to join his army that was now concentrated on the banks of the Udhua Nullah near Rajmahal. Before leaving Monghyr, however, he put to death a number of his prisoners, including Raja Ram Narayan, till lately Deputy Governor of Bihar, who was thrown into the river below the fort with a pitcher filled with sand tied to his neck. Gurgun Khan not satisfied with this butchery, also urged the Nawab to kill his English prisoners, but this the Nawab refused to do.

Jagat Set Mahtab Rai and Sarup Chand, two rich bankers of Murshidabad who had been brought from that place by Mir Kasim Ali as they were believed to favour the British cause, also appear to have escaped though tradition says that they were drowned at the same time, and that a servant of Jagat Set, Chinni, begged in vain that he might be drowned with his master, and thereupon flung himself into the water after him. This picturesque tradition appears, however, to be untrue, for not only does the author of the *Sau ul Mutakharin* say that they were hacked to pieces at Barh but Major Grant, who was one of the avenging force which hurried up under Major Adams, states that they found the bodies buried in one of the rooms of a house at that place. The tradition is, however, an old one, which must have sprung up soon after their death, for the translator of the *Sau ul Mutakharin* (Raymond alias Haji Mustapha) wrote about 1789. Out of 10,000 boatmen who pass every year by a certain tower of the castle of Monghyr, there is not a man but will point out the spot where the two Jagat Sets were drowned, nor is there an old woman at Monghyr but would repeat the speech of the heroic Chinni to his master's executioners."

The Nawab's Flight

Before the Nawab could join his army at Udhua Nullah, he heard of a second decisive defeat that it had sustained, and he there-

upon returned to Monghyr. He only stayed there two or three days, and then fell back on Patna, taking with him Mr Hay, Mr Ellis, Mr Lushington and other English prisoners. Before leaving it is said, one of his noblemen Ibrahim Ali Khan (brother of the ancestor of the Husainabad family in this district) urged him to release the English prisoners, or at least send the women down the Ganga to Major Adams, but the Nawab simply referred him to his evil genius, Gurgun Khan, who put him off by saying that it would be impossible to find boats for so many.

On the way Mir Kasim halted on the banks of the Rahuia Nullah, a small stream near Lakhisarai. Here Gurgun Khan met his death, being cut down by some troopers who demanded their arrears of pay. A scene of wild confusion followed. Makar, another Armenian General, seeing the murderers were making their escape beyond the reach of muskets, fired off some guns loaded with grape. The army thought that the English were upon them and fled in terror, Mir Kasim himself trying to escape on an elephant. They rushed to the bridge of boats over the Rahuia, which was densely crowded with fugitives, carts and elephants, all trying to cut their way through, and as soon as they had crossed over, made ready to resist their imaginary pursuers. The uproar did not subside till midnight, and the alarm having been proved to be a false one, Mir Kasim marched on next day to Patna.

Capture of Monghyr

In the meantime, the British army continued to advance upon Monghyr, which Mir Kasim had placed under the command of Arab Ali Khan, a creature of Gurgun Khan. As they approached the place, a strong detachment was sent forward to invest it and commence approaches. On the 1st of October, 1763 the main body arrived, and the batteries which had been thrown up were immediately opened. A heavy fire was maintained all day and the following day, when the breach was reported practicable, and arrangements were made for an assault. But in the evening the Governor capitulated, and surrendered himself and his garrison prisoners of war. The English at once set to work to repair the breaches and improve the defences. The sick and wounded were disembarked from the boats and brought from Rajmahal and a comfortable hospital established. A depot of stores was also formed, and a detachment of sepoys was left as a garrison under the command of Captain John White, who was further directed to raise locally another battalion of sepoys. The news of the capture of Monghyr infuriated the Nawab, who as soon as he heard of it, gave orders that his English prisoners at Patna should be put to death. This order was carried out by the rearguard Samru, and resulted in what is known as the Massacre of Patna.

Three years later (in 1766) there was a mutiny of the European officers of the Bengal army in consequence of the orders regarding

the reduction of *bhatta*. The meaning of this term may be briefly explained. The officers received fixed pay, but when they took the field, were allowed an extra monthly sum to cover their increased expenses. This allowance was known as *bhatta*, and half of it was granted when they were garrisoned at a detached station but not actually in the field. After the battle of Plassey, Mir Jafar Khan had granted an extra allowance called "*double bhatta*" and this had been continued during the Nawabship of Mir Kasim. In pursuance of a policy of rigorous retrenchment, the Directors of the Company now passed orders that this allowance should be abolished, except in the case of the Brigade stationed at Allahabad, but conceded the grant of half *bhatta* to the troops stationed at Patna and Monghyr. The officers bitterly resented this curtailment of their emoluments and determined to resign their commissions. On the 1st May 1766 a letter to this effect was signed by the officers of the First Brigade, which was then stationed at Monghyr under Sir Robert Fletcher, who transmitted it to Lord Clive at Murshidabad.

Clive at once determined to proceed to Monghyr in person by forced marches and in the meantime sent forward some officers to deal with the situation as well as they could. His confidence in them was not misplaced. Arriving at Monghyr late at night on the 12th May, they heard much to their surprise, drums beating and other signs of disturbance, and on going to Sir Robert Fletcher's quarters saw half the European regiment drinking, singing and beating drums. Next morning two of them went to Kharagpur, where the sepoy troops were encamped, and returned with two battalions to Monghyr. On the 14th May the European battalion broke out in open mutiny, but this proved abortive owing to the prompt measures taken by Captain Smith. Expecting such a mutiny, he had already determined to seize the saluting battery which being situated upon a hillock completely commanded the barracks and from its situation, and the guns mounted upon it, was a position of importance.*

Captain Smith marched the sepoys to the back of the hill without being observed and making a sudden rush, gained possession of it. The European battalion had got under arms, and were preparing to leave the fort and follow their officers, and the artillery were about to do the same. But the unexpected appearance of the firm line of sepoys, with their bayonets fixed and arms loaded, threw them into confusion, of which Captain Smith immediately took advantage, warning them that if they did not retire peaceably to their barracks he would fire upon them at once. Sir Robert Fletcher, who came up at this juncture, also harangued the troops, and distributed money amongst them. They now became quiet, and said that they had expected he would have placed himself at their head, otherwise they would not have thought of turning out. If

* This hillock is now known as Karnachaura hill. See the article on Monghyr in Chapter XIV "Country Life" in November 1959 published a sketch by Henry Salt in 1803.

such was not the case, their officers might go where they pleased, but they would stay, and live or die with him alone. While Sir Robert was on the parade, several of the officers who had resigned came up, hearing that the men had mutinied and offered their services to assist him. This offer he declined and ordered them all to leave the garrison within two hours, under pain of being sent off in charge of a guard. In the evening they had all left the fort except three, of whom two were confined to their beds by sickness.

Clive's Visit

Next day (5th May) Lord Clive reached Monghyr and held a parade of the troops. He explained the circumstances under which the *bhatta* had been withdrawn, applauded the loyal conduct of the sepoys, and pointing out that the combination of the officers was an act of gross insubordination and positive mutiny, declared that the ring leaders would suffer the severest penalties of martial law, and the inferior offenders be sent to England by the first available ships. After this address the Brigade gave three hearty cheers and marched off quietly to the barracks and lines. The resigned officers had all encamped at a short distance from Monghyr, intending to wait for their comrades of the other Brigades, but Lord Clive ordered them all to proceed to Calcutta forthwith and sent out a detachment of sepoys to take them down by force, if necessary. This measure had the desired effect, and the detachment soon returned with a report that the whole were on their way in small parties of three and four, some marching and others proceeding by water. Those officers chiefly subalterns, who were at the outposts, and whose commissions had not been sent in owing to their absence, were now directed to proceed to Monghyr, where, warned by the example of the others, they exhibited no inclination to resign, but on the contrary, readily undertook the duties of station, until they were relieved by officers sent up from Calcutta.

EARLY BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

The threatened mutiny was thus quickly quelled, but it is clear that the danger was very real. One officer indeed, had proposed that he and the other mutinous officers should throw dice to decide who should take Lord Clive's life, and that when he held a review, they should carry muskets instead of swords in order to enable them to carry out their purpose. It remains to note that Sir Robert Fletcher was subsequently tried for fomenting and encouraging the mutiny and was cashiered.

For some time John Macrabe was the Deputy Commissioner, Government of Monghyr before 1789. The subsequent history of the district is uneventful. With the extension of the British dominions the town of Monghyr ceased to be an important frontier post. Although there was an arsenal no regular garrison was kept up and no attempt was made to bring the fortifications up-to-date. It was, however, noted for its fine situation and salubrious air, and

was used as a sanatorium for the British troops. So great, and indeed was its reputation as a health resort that the journey up the Ganga, followed by stay there, was regarded as healthy as a sea voyage. We find that a trip to Monghyr was prescribed for the wife of Warren Hastings when she was in ill health. In 1781, when Warren Hastings was on his way to meet Chait Singh at Benaras, he left her here assured that she would be in the surroundings most likely to be of benefit to her*. In the early part of the nineteenth century, the place was degraded to a lunatic asylum for sepoys, a depot for army clothing and an invalid station for British soldiers, Monghyr being, according to Bishop Heber, generally chosen by the more respectable of the latter, while the reprobates preferred Murshidabad.

THE SEPOY MUTINY

During the Mutiny of 1857, the tranquility of the district was not broken, largely owing to the prompt measures taken by the Commissioner, Mr Yule. On the outbreak of the troops at Dinapore there was a panic in the town, but Mr Yule, realising the importance of its position on the Ganga and the likelihood that the native troops stationed in the Division would rise, detained 150 men of the 5th Fusiliers, who happened to be passing up the Ganga, and sent a hundred of them to Bhagalpur and the remainder to Monghyr. This prudent measure secured the important highway of the Ganga and enabled Outram to go up country unmolested. Eventually, it was found possible to withdraw the detachment from Monghyr by the end of 1857 and the district remained quiet. There was, it is true, a certain amount of crime, but this was attributed to the scarcity which prevailed at the time and to the distress caused by the stoppage of railway and other works during the disturbances.

FORMATION OF THE DISTRICT

The existence of Monghyr as a separate executive centre is believed to date from the year 1812. It appears from a letter dated the 15th July of that year that Mr Ewing was appointed to have charge of the Monghyr Criminal Court, called the Court of the Joint Magistrate of Monghyr, and that he was subordinate to the Magistrate of Bhagalpur, bearing to him somewhat the relation of a modern Subdivisional Officer. The language of the above letter and subsequent correspondence seem to show that the appointment of Mr Ewing was the first step taken but the original orders directing the formation of the new jurisdiction cannot be traced in the records of either Bhagalpur or Monghyr. A letter also from Mr Dowdeswell, Secretary to Government, dated the 22nd October 1811 proves that at that time no magisterial authority existed in Monghyr except that of the Magistrate of Bhagalpur, to whom it is addressed. 'I am directed', it runs, 'to acquaint you that His Excellency the Vice-President in Council considers it of importance that you should

* S. C. Grier—'The Letters of Warren Hastings to His Wife' (1905) p. 123

revert to the practice which formerly existed, of holding the *kachari* during a part of the year at Monghyr, and that he desires that you will make the necessary arrangements for that purpose." The extent of the Monghyr jurisdiction is not mentioned in the local records till September, 1814, when it is stated to comprise five thanas or police divisions, viz, Monghyr, Tarapin, Surajgarha, Mallepui, and Cogri.

No change seems to have been made in the powers or jurisdiction of the Monghyr Court till 1832, when it was determined to erect it into a revenue-receiving centre under the name of a Deputy Collectorate, the new office being conferred on the then Joint-Magistrate. From that time this officer, although he did not obtain the title, exercised most of the powers of a full Magistrate Collector, and for the first corresponded directly with the chief executive and revenue authorities, and not through the Collector of Bhagalpur, whose deputy he nominally was. In order to form the new revenue district, *parganas* Surajgarha, Monghyr, Chandanbhuka, Kajra, Pharkiya, Abhaipur and Gidhaur were transferred from the district of Bhagalpur, *parganas* Ainarthi, Roh (in part), Naihat (in part), Maldah, Bihai (in part) and Samri (in part) from the district of Bihar, and Malki, Balhi, Masjidpur, Akbarpur Rani, Bhusari, Badaphusri, Naipui, Imadpur, Kalkhand and Utalkhand from the district of Tirhut.

The earliest of value in the Collectorate records appear to be in a letter from the Commissioner of Bhagalpur to the Secretary to the Sadr Board of Revenue at Fort William, dated the 29th May, 1850. He writes "it appears from the record that the native town and Bazar of Monghyr have for a long period (ever since our first occupation of the country) been considered Government property, denominated the Military or Camp Bazar. This, though constituting one *Mahal*, was divided into 13 *Taifs*, viz, (1) Bara Bazar (2) Deochi Bazar, (3) Coddard Bazar, (4) Wellesly Bazar, (5) Monghyr Bazar, (6) Gohree Bazar, (7) Batemanganj, (8) Topkhana Bazar, (9) Fanok Bazar, (10) Dalhatta Bazar, (11) Belau Bazar, (12) Rasoolganj and (13) Begampur."

Since that time the district has gradually grown to its present dimensions with various changes of jurisdiction. In 1834 *pargana* Chakai was transferred from the district of Ramgarh and in 1839 *pargana* Bishahari from the district of Patna. Numerous minor changes followed but the greatest change was effected in June, 1874, when *parganas* Sakhrabad, Darra, Singhaul, Kharagpur and Parbat para were transferred to Monghyr from Bhagalpur together with *tappas* Lowdah and Simrawan and 281 villages from *parganas* Sihuri and Lakhanpur comprising in all an area of 613.62 square miles. The subdivision of Jamui was formed in 1864, at first with head quarters at Sikandra but in 1869 they were transferred to Jamui. The Begusrai subdivision was established in 1870, the headquarters

of that subdivision (formerly known as the Ballia subdivision) being fixed at Begusarai. In recent years the most important administrative change has been the transfer in 1904-05 of the Sheikhpura thana from the Jamal to the Monghyr subdivision. In 1943-44 Khagaria subdivision was established with headquarters at Khagaria.

FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The role of Monghyr in the recent freedom movement has been very important and deserves much more than a passing reference. The people of Monghyr, of course, did not carry on an isolated movement, but as a part of the general movement in India as a whole.

The influence of the great social and political reformer, Raja Ram Mohan Roy was distinctly felt in this district. In 1864, branches of the Brahmo Samaj were established at Monghyr and Jamalpur. These two branches of the Brahmo Samaj worked as the nucleus for the renaissance movement which quickly caught the imagination of the people and there were a number of social and religious institutions organised which were in a way the forerunners of the freedom movement in this district. Monghyr was visited by leaders like Swami Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Pandit Lekhram and others. In 1897 a branch of the Arya Samaj was opened at Monghyr and quickly smaller centres of the Arya Samaj were formed at Jamalpur, Khagaria, Gogri, and other places. Monghyr received a number of visits from earnest Arya Samaj preachers like Swami Nityanand, Swami Visheshwaranand and others. The activities of the Arya and Brahmo Samaj centres helped a great deal in the social and national awakening of the people of Monghyr and in a way helped the struggle for freedom from 1885 when the first session of the Indian National Congress was held at Bombay. Keshab Chandra Sen lived in the fort area at Monghyr and at Jamalpur and attracted a large number of men and women.

Representatives from Bihar started taking interest in the activities of the Indian National Congress from the very beginning. Towards the end of the nineteenth century some of the enlightened men of Monghyr like Gopal Chandra Som, Tara Bhushan Banerji, Bhupal Chandra Maziundar, Chhedi Prasad Choudhury, Jagannath Prasad etc., began to take interest in multifarious social and political activities with a leaning towards the Indian National Congress. The annual political conferences held in different parts of Bengal were regularly attended by representatives from this district. The annual session of the political conference held at Bhagalpur in 1901 was largely attended by some of the leading citizens of Monghyr including Shri Rajeshwar Prasad.

Then came the Swadeshi movement which had its roots in the partition of Bengal in 1905. Monghyr was quickly drawn into the whirlpool of agitation in connection with the Swadeshi movement.

Surendra Nath Banerji, the uncrowned king of Bengal, visited Monghyr in 1906 and gave the slogan for the boycott of foreign goods and the exclusive use of Swadeshi goods. The Swadeshi movement was actively participated in by men like Gopal Chandra Som, Tara Bhushan Banerji, Bhupal Chandra Mazumdar, Chhedi Prasad Choudhury, Parmeshwari Prasad, Kamla Prasad and Deokinandan Singh. The movement attracted a band of selfless students who were destined to take later a very important part in the struggle for freedom. Prominent among them were Sri Krishna Sinha, at present the Chief Minister of Bihar, Tajeshwar Prasad, Radhika Prasad Ram Kishore Singh and Ram Prasad. Monghyr came to a certain extent under the influence of bomb-cult of the Revolutionary Party of Bengal. Many of the young revolutionaries of Bengal used to visit Monghyr frequently and distribute pamphlets and leaflets and were trying to enlist young students of Monghyr to their fold. Sri Krishna Sinha, the present Chief Minister of Bihar, had also some connection with the Revolutionary Party and once took a vow touching the water of the Ganga river that he would serve his mother country for his whole life. Young Sri Krishna from 1910 started organising the student community of Monghyr and quickly reached a popular position in the midst of young Bihar. There was an offer to him for becoming a member of the Servants of Indian Society but he did not join it as he wanted to serve his mother land without being tied down to smaller institutions. In 1921 he published a weekly paper named 'Desh Sewak'. While a student in Calcutta he took an active part in the students' demonstrations in connection with the Swadeshi agitation. Young Bihar was moving fast. Bihar Students' Federation established at Calcutta through the efforts of young Sri Krishna and others had its branches at various places in Bihar including one at Monghyr. A largely attended session of the Federation was held in 1913 at Monghyr under the Presidentship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad. In 1917 the annual session of Bihar Provincial Political Conference was held at Monghyr under the Presidentship of Khan Bahadur Nawab Sarfaraz Hussain Khan in which a number of leading citizens of Bihar including Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha took a prominent part. Another popular body functioning as the People's Association had been set up at Monghyr which was nursed by men like Tajeshwar Prasad, Maridhar and others. All these institutions led to a certain participation in the wider upsurge current in the country and helped a great deal in the national awakening of the people of the district.

The year 1917 is an important landmark in the history of the country. A fresh momentum had been given to the political awakening by the Home Rule Movement of Mrs. Annie Besant, the school of politics of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the Champaran Satyagraha which was Gandhiji's first struggle in India. It was no wonder that Monghyr with the ground that had already been prepared quickly took her part in these movements.

Political events with wider implications to the whole of the country followed quickly. The repressive policy adopted by the British Government to crush the movement brought in the measure known as the Rowlat Act. Soon after in 1919 Mahatma Gandhi started his Satyagraha movement. The Satyagraha movement swept the district. *Hartals* were observed, fasts were undertaken, prayers were held, unauthorised processions and meetings were organised throughout the district and the towns like Monghyr, Jamui, Begusarai, etc., and it was an anxious time to the British administration. The martial law that was promulgated in the Punjab was followed by the Khilafat movement and both the communities (Hindu and Muslim) in Monghyr district actively participated in the Khilafat movement. There was a great unrest among the people accentuated by the economic distress. The additional taxes that were imposed and the spiral rise in the prices of essential commodities led to a great agrarian unrest in Bihar. The unrest was common throughout the district. For the first time the political leaders of the district started making whirlwind tours on foot, *elka* and the country boats and the messages of all India leaders quickly reached the masses through the roving sincere workers. A huge number of students gave up their studies and joined the Congress camp of volunteers. They began to use khadi cloth and propagate the ideas of the Indian National Congress.

When Mahatma Gandhi with alliance with the other leaders and the sponsors of the Khilafat movement declared his desire of launching a non co operation movement on all India basis, the district of Monghyr offered a sincere co operation. In August, 1920 a widely attended provincial conference was held at Bhagalpur in which a large number of people from Monghyr took active part. The conference passed the resolution of non co operation. In September, 1920 a session of the Indian National Congress was held at Calcutta in which a resolution was passed for starting an all India non co operation movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. It was decided to open branches of the Indian National Congress throughout the country and the resolution was quickly implemented in the district of Monghyr. During his whirlwind tours Mahatma Gandhi along with Shrikrishna Ali visited Monghyr and addressed a huge meeting attended by people from different corners of the district. From this point the political history of this district was in common with the history of the country. The people of Monghyr faithfully followed the different phases of the Indian National Congress. From 1920 the Congress at its Nagpur session had declared the demand of Purna Swaraj and not mere dominion status as the goal till 1921 when the non co operation movement spread like a wild fire. This district recorded her faith in the Congress. Titles offered by the Government were abandoned, lawyers left their practice at the bar, students observed *hartals* in schools and colleges, *panchayats* were formed in the villages, boycott of the foreign cloth

and goods was undertaken and the use of Charkha and Swadeshi goods became common. Burning of foreign cloth was quite common. The Swarajya movement found a band of faithful followers in Monghyr district.

It is not possible to mention the names of all the persons who were leading the Congress movement in Monghyr. Some of them were Shah Mohammad Zubair, Sri Krishna Sinha, Tajeshwar Prasad, Radhika Prasad, Dharma Narain Singh, Maulana Ali Azim Sahab, Maulvi Zafiruddin, Baldeo Singh, Sri Krishna Mishra, Hari Shankar Das, Suresh Chandra Mishra, Karyanand Sharma, Nand Kumar Singh and Kumar Kalika Prasad Singh. A District Congress Committee was established under the Presidentship of Shah Mohammad Zubair with Tajeshwar Prasad as its Secretary and Sri Krishna Sinha was entrusted with the work of organising the Congress throughout the district. Thana Congress Committees were established at important thanas.

The programme consisted of the well known activities like the establishment of Gram Panchayat, preaching of Swadeshi cult, establishment of national schools, promotion of Hindu-Muslim unity, prohibition and ending of untouchability.

It was obvious that Government would not have brooked all these activities. A large number of leaders were arrested and imprisoned. They included men like Shah Mohammad Zubair, Sri Krishna Sinha, Dharma Narain Singh, Tajeshwar Prasad and others. The torch was kept aflame by others like Nandhari Singh, etc., when they were in prison. Adverse circumstances threw up leaders from unexpected quarters and there was never a cessation of the Congress activities. Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the course of his tour in Bihar visited the subdivisions of Monghyr district and addressed several meetings. Monghyr was selected as one of the three centres in Bihar for starting a collective non-cooperation movement according to the programme of Mahatma Gandhi at Bardoli which had to be postponed owing to the Chauri-Chauri riot in Gorakhpur. In 1922, the first session of the Monghyr District Political Conference was held at Lakhsara. On the 13th April, 1923 in connection with the Satyagraha movement a large number of men from Monghyr were arrested at Nagpur. When Jammal al Bajaj established Gandhi Sewa Sangh there were two members from Monghyr, namely Suresh Chandra Mishra and Gadadhar Prasad.

In September, 1923, the Swaraj Party supported the programme of entering the legislatures with a view to mend or end the constitution of 1919. Shah Mohammad Zubair was elected to the Council of State from the Muslim constituency. In 1924 Sri Krishna Sinha and Kumar Kalika Prasad were elected to the Provincial Assembly. In 1926 Sri Babu was elected the Leader of the Opposition. His dignified and fiery oratory was an invaluable asset to the country.

In 1928 when Sir John Simon visited Patna a large number of people from Monghyr went to Patna to participate in the demonstration to show their position to the Simon Commission. In 1929 the Provincial Political Conference was held at Monghyr. One of the participants in this Conference was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. When the Congress decided to observe the Independence Day on the 26th January, 1930 Monghyr took up the programme solemnly. The later phases of the civil disobedience movement and salt satyagraha were also fully organised. Sri Babu resigned from the Legislature and threw himself in the movement of salt satyagraha. On the 20th April Sri Babu and his associates started making salt at Garhipura village and were arrested. On the 23rd April Sri Babu was awarded three months rigorous imprisonment. The arrest of Sri Babu however, did not abate the movement of salt satyagraha. The work was entrusted to Nand Kumar Singh and others and simultaneously salt satyagraha was started at more than 100 places within the district. The fear complex of the people had completely liquidated. In a similar manner the other phases of the programme, namely, boycott of foreign cloth and encouragement of prohibition were being pushed through. On the 16th November, 1930, Jawahar Day was observed in the town of Monghyr and a large unauthorised procession was taken out which was broken up by the police and a number of organisers received *lathi* injuries. Some of the arrested persons were Devendra Narain Singh, Dharma Narain Singh Nemdhari Singh, Niapada Mukherji and Baldeo Singh Gogri Begusarai Toghra, Tarapur Barliaya, Jamui and the town of Monghyr were important places of Satyagraha movement in which a number of ladies also had taken part. It is calculated that in 1930-31 about 1,500 persons had been arrested in the district and 6 persons had become martyrs being the victims of the police bullets. When the Congress was declared a proscribed organisation in January, 1932, the Congress offices Ashrams national schools, buildings properties etc. were confiscated by the Government. All the top leaders were arrested and many of them were awarded more than one year's imprisonment. But the mass arrest of the leaders and a visit by the Governor of Bihar to Monghyr on the 15th January 1932 did not prevent the people of Monghyr in celebrating the 26th January as the Independence Day and a big unauthorised procession of about 10,000 persons was taken out on the road. The crowd was dispersed by the police with the help of *lathis*. On the 15th February, 1932 the Congress volunteers at the point of police bayonets hoisted the national flag on the courts of the Judges and Munsifs at Monghyr. Observance of National Week and other important days were always implemented. On the 25th July the Tilak Maidan Congress Office was raided by the Congress volunteers, the lock was broken and the national flag was hoisted. Baldeo Prasad Singh led a number of volunteers from Monghyr to take possession of Sadaqat Ashram at Patna. Proscribed leaflets and pamphlets used to be cyclostiled and

distributed secretly. Mention has also to be made particularly of four ladies of the town, namely, Shrimati Sona Devi, Thakur Devi, Murti Devi and Yasoda Devi who were arrested while picketing the post offices. With the Congress as a proscribed organisation the work was controlled by the dictators appointed from time to time. In 1942, one after another, Baldeo Singh, Ram Charitar Singh, Mahendra Singh, Krishna Mohan Pyare Singh were selected as dictators. These were the days of naked repression when not only heavy jail sentences were awarded but also punitive fines were realised with torture.

At the Patna Conference of the All India Congress Committee held in the month of May, 1934 it was decided to abandon individual Satyagraha. The Congress for the time being postponed this struggle of independence by means of civil disobedience movement and turned to secure its objective by constitutional means. For the purpose of fighting elections a Parliamentary Board was formed. The Government also removed its ban on the Congress and restored the confiscated properties. The Congress organisation in Monghyr was reorganised and by the middle of 1934 civil disobedience movement abated for the time being. In 1935, elections were held both for the Central and Provincial Assemblies. In the district of Monghyr Sri Krishna Sinha, Nirapada Mukherji, Ram Charitar Singh, Kumar Kalika Prasad Singh and Dr Raghunandan Prasad were elected members of the Provincial Assembly. When in 1937 the Congress formed the first Ministry of Bihar under the Act of 1935 Sri Krishna Sinha of Monghyr was elected to lead the Ministry as Chief Minister.

In September, 1939 when the Second World War broke out political circumstances again changed. Since the British Government in India did not clearly express their intention for joining the war and refused to accept the complete independence of India as its ultimate goal the Congress executives at Wardha in October passed a resolution ordering the Congress Ministries in the Provinces to resign. Shri Sri Krishna Sinha's Ministry resigned and this ushered in another phase of struggle for freedom. In March, 1940, the Congress had its session at Ramgarh in Hazaribagh district. The demand for complete independence was reiterated at Ramgarh and it was decided to start Satyagraha against the war policy. Mahatma Gandhi threw up a plan of individual Satyagraha and permission was given only to confirmed supporters of the Congress to offer individual Satyagraha. The slogan adopted was "Hai Samrajyabadi yehi larayee, na denge ek pie, na denge ek bhai" (It is an imperialistic war, we shall neither give any money nor any man). In accordance with this programme Sri Krishna Sinha became the first Satyagrahi. He offered Satyagraha at the Lawn in Bankipore (Patna) and was immediately arrested. At Tilak Maidan of Monghyr Nemdhari Singh was the first man to offer Satyagraha in Monghyr.

district and was arrested. After him, one by one, Ram Charitar Singh, Syed Rafiuddin Ahmad Rizvi, Shri Narain Lal, Ramgovind Prasad Verma, Ram Prasad and Nurulla Saheb offered individual Satyagraha and courted their arrest. The movement spread throughout the length and breadth of the district and a large number of persons were arrested in this connection.

The quick changes of fortune in the war in the course of which the Allied Armies suffered some serious defeats could not but make the people more restive. The Japanese invasion was in the air. Subhash Chandra Bose had become a legend and the idea of Bose invading India at the head of an Indian National Army was viewed with mixed feelings. The countryside was filled up with British and American soldiers. At various places of the district military barracks were built. All this meant to the politically conscious people the last gasp of British imperialism in India. The Quit India Movement sanctioned by the Congress Executive Body on the 14th July 1942 and the resolution passed by the All India National Congress Committee on the 7th August, 1942 that a general popular movement based on non-violence be immediately started had its quick repercussions. On one side the all India leaders were quickly put within the prison bar and the leaders in provinces were followed up. But the great August movement of 1942 spread and there was a practical cessation of Government in many parts of the country including parts of this district for a few days. The people were permeated with the spirit of resistance for the achievement of the goal of independence. It is true that the movement took shapes like dismantling of the railway lines, cutting down roads, tampering with telephones and telegraphs and even attacks on Government buildings and an attempt to damage them. *Hartal* was observed and processions actively demonstrated by the girls and boys. Public meeting, hoisting of national flag, looting of trains, destroying liquor shops, burning of Government papers at the railway stations, at the registration offices etc. raiding of post offices and railway stations were some of the phases of this movement. It is true that in some cases foreign soldiers were killed and their arms and ammunitions were snatched away. Mob fury once aroused is difficult to be controlled. The pivot of Government is prestige and with the removal of the prestige it is no wonder that the movement took a peculiar turn. For a moment it almost looked that the British Raj had come to an end. Quickly a network of Gram Panchayats were set up, local courts started functioning and even convicted persons were sent to the newly created prisons. But the heavy hands of the administration came down quickly on the people. Military were let loose throughout the district. British and American soldiers and Baluchi military units were distributed and there was a ruthless campaign of mass arrests, carnage and shooting on the part of the military. Unarmed mobs were charged with *lathis* and fired upon. At several places machine guns were said to have been used from aeroplane.

Heavy fines were imposed on the people. The Congress offices and Ashrams were confiscated and sealed by Government. In the movement of 1942 it is understood that about 3,000 persons were arrested and at several dozen places firing was resorted to. It is said that more than one thousand persons had been wounded and at least 25 persons had been killed by bullets.

Towards the end of 1943 the movement gradually abated and the Congress took up a constructive policy. The Government also gradually relaxed their repressive measures. In 1944 Sri Krishna Sinha and Anugrah Narain Sinha were released. In June, 1945 Mahatma Gandhi and the members of the Congress Executive Committee were let off. The Second World War came to an end. In the month of September the Government removed the ban on the Congress. Political prisoners were released and the Congress offices and Ashrams were restored. The District Congress Office at Tilak Maidan and the offices of Thana Congress Committees started a programme of reorganisation again.

At the beginning of 1946 elections to the both Central and Provincial Assemblies were held. A Congress member of the district was elected a member in the Central Assembly from Monghyr *cum* Gaya constituency. In the Bihar Assembly Sri Krishna Sinha, Ramcharitar Singh, Nirapada Mukherji, Kumar Kalika Prasad Singh, Sarjug Singh, Kamleshwar Yadav, Bhagwat Paswan and Dr. Raghunandan Prasad were elected from the non-Muslim constituencies. A Congress Ministry was formed again in Bihar and Sri Krishna Sinha was elected the leader and became the Chief Minister of Bihar. Another Minister, Ram Charitar Singh also belonged to the district of Monghyr. Nirapada Mukherji, another member from Monghyr was made a Parliamentary Secretary while Shyama Prasad Singh was elected a member in the Bihar Legislative Council and was later made its Deputy Chairman. One of the first act of the Congress Ministry was to release the political prisoners who were still in jails. In the month of August, 1946 a series of communal riots broke out throughout the country, and some parts of Monghyr had the full blast of them. On the 15th August, 1947 India secured her freedom and the same day everywhere in India Independence Day was celebrated. The people of Monghyr participated in the celebration amongst great joy and pleasure.

ARCHAEOLOGY

The district contains several remains of antiquarian interest. The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* published in 1926 has the following paragraph —

"In addition to the great fort at Monghyr, there are the ruins of other forts at Indpe (near Jamui), Naulakhiagarh (near Khura), Chakai, Jaimangalgarh in the Kabari Tal, and Naula in the Begusarai subdivision. Buddhist

remains are to be found at Rajaona and Hassanganj near Lakhisarai and at Uren near Kajra. There is an inscription of about the tenth century at Kashthiari Ghat and another referring to the Bengal Sultan Rukn ud din Kaikaus (1297 A. D.) at Lakhisarai. The oldest extant building of the Muhammadan period is the *daragh* of Shah Nafah, built in 1497-8 by Prince Danyal, son of Ala ud din Husain, king of Bengal.

There has been a certain amount of research regarding the antiquities at Naulagarh, Jaimangalgarh, Shaubho Chak and Ramgodhina. Prof. Radha Krishna Chaudhury has been researching on these lines and the archaeological records of Begusarai published by him in the Ganesh Dutta College Bulletin series contain some of his valuable articles on the subject.

Dr. D. C. Sarkar has also published an article on Naulagarh inscription in the Journal of the Bihar Research Society (September-December issue of 1951). All these researches show that this area played a very important part particularly in the early Pala period.

Naulagarh, 16 miles north west of Begusarai is surrounded from all sides by fortifications with gates and a canal on the western side. There are a number of mounds. Some excavations were done and some fine sculptural remains in black stone, big earthen jars, broken pieces of ancient pots, small beads and earthen seals, one silver coin and a broken Vishnu image with an inscription on the pedestal and other terra cottas have been found. The date of the Vishnu image has been placed in the latter half of the eleventh century A. D.

Jaimangalgarh, 13 miles north of Begusarai town is still an important religious centre and on every Tuesday and Saturday hundreds of people assemble there to worship the goddess Jaimangali. Surrounded on all sides by a moat and then by a lake known as Kabar Tal, the area with high mounds presents a picturesque site. There was a patch of jungle which has been recently cleared and the Kabar lake drained out for reclaiming the submerged lands. The mounds have been levelled down and the area is being used for agricultural purposes. Ordinary agricultural ploughing up has led to the discovery of ancient bricks, clay balls, remains of old structures and a brick wall. An inscribed gold plaque was said to have been found but it is now missing. On the north-eastern side there are distinct mounds called Daitaha dihi. These mounds are still preserved.

The origin of the temple of goddess Jaimangala is believed to be very ancient. Some very fine black stone images of Varaha, Badrinaram, Ganga, Shiva, Parvati, etc., and one artistic column in black stone have also been found. All this shows that Jaimangalgarh was also like Naulagarh, an important centre during the Pala period. The theory that Jaimangalgarh was the centre of Sakti cult during the Pala period has been advanced but requires further investigation.

The Pandas of Jaimangalgarh had been granted rent-free land which they enjoyed during the Hindu and Muslim periods. The Pandas are in possession of three *sanads* dated 1794 A. D. Not only Jaimangalgarh was allowed to remain revenue-free but Government made an annual grant for the purpose of feeding monkeys and keeping alight a lamp which was to be burnt day and night in the temple. In 1852 on the discovery that the obligations were not being fulfilled the grant was stopped.

Shamho Chak, a group of villages on the bank of the river Ganga, parts of which have been eroded by the river, presents another ancient site of antiquity.

Uren, an ancient Buddhist site is at a distance of only 6 miles from Shamho. It is believed that Lord Buddha spent one of his rainy seasons at Uren and had also visited Shamho.

Before the erosion of the villages there were a number of mounds and some antiquities have been found. An inscribed image of Buddha was discovered and is preserved in a temple. A big incised brick near a well was discovered. The inscription was that one Dhiraj Singh had repaired the well in Fasli 760 (1351-52 A. D.). This brick is now missing. It is said that the Collector of Monghyr had removed the brick in 1925-26 when he visited the place with Sir Ganesh Dutta Singh, a Minister.

The Chakwars of Shamho Chak have already been referred to. The Chakwars, a sub-caste of Bhumihar-Brahman traced back their genealogy to one Chirain Mishra who migrated from Tirhut to Begusarai subdivision in the tenth-eleventh century. He established a small kingdom which slowly extended and comprised the area from Rajmahal in the east to Tekari in the west and from Darbhanga in the north to the borders of Orissa in the south.

Grants of land by Raja Bakhtawar Singh and Raja Shiva Dutta Singh have been traced. In Fasli 1126 (1719-20 A. D.) Raja Shiva Dutta Singh made a grant of 5,229 bighas of land at village Balia to the Muslim saint Hazarat Sayed Shah Mohiuddin Bokhari. This grant was respected by Ali Vardi and his successors and later on confirmed by the East India Company in 1828 A. D. The East India Company records have frequent references to the Chakwars of Shamho. They had become very powerful and were putting the European traders to heavy annual expenditure for armaments to assure a safe passage of their boats carrying merchandise from and to Patna.

The village of Rani-godhna, 16 miles west of Begusarai has finds of ancient bricks and potteries. Tradition has it that Akbar once stayed at this village with his two wives and the name of the village is associated with Akbar's queens.

Bhimbandh, situated about 12 miles south-west of Kharagpur was identified by Cunningham as the site where Buddha overcame the Taksa Vakula Waddle, however, doubts this identification

The village Indpe, 4 miles south of Jamui has the ruins of a large fort attributed by local tradition to Indradynma Di Buchanan has left an account of this area Mi Beglu visited the place in 1872 and observed that a thorough examination of the many mounds should be worth an excavation

Jamagar a small village close to Lakhisarai has given us an inscribed Vishnu image which indicates that about 1151 A D Madanpala recovered Monghyr from the Calahwals

Another site of antiquity is at Kail (Bindaban) To the south is the small village of Kawayr with a number of mounds Cunningham had excavated one of the mounds and had discovered a small chamber According to General Cunningham the building belonged to ninth tenth century Two thousand and seven hundred seals were discovered On the western bank of the Kail river is Lakhisarai with several brick mounds and undoubtedly an ancient Buddhist site A number of statues were discovered and some of them are preserved in the Indian Museum and Ashutosh Museum of Calcutta An inscribed image of Avalokiteshwara was discovered here and an account of the same has been published in the G D College Bulletin series no II There is an inscription at Lakhisarai relating to the Bengal Sultan, Rukn ud din Karkans (1297 A D)

General Cunningham had made some excavations at Noongarh, a village in Jamui subdivision and found a broken inscribed image and the remains of a monastery were discovered

Rajauna, 2 miles north west of Lakhisarai has given us a number of important old Buddhist and Brahminical images which have been carried to different temples and the Indian Museum Calcutta

There is an inscription of tenth century at Kastharmi ghat in Monghyr at village Semria (Jamui subdivision) There is a huge inscribed statue of Buddha at Srungushi (Kharagpur hills) Cunningham found several Buddhist and Brahminical figures and inscriptions Cunningham had also identified Sheikhpara a village visited by Huen Tsiang in the seventh century A D The Dargah of Shah Nafah built in 1497-98 by Prince Danyal has already been referred to Alaulgarh in Khagaria subdivision is a promising archaeological site Of the many more recent historic remains mention may be made of Hastings fort at Chakai, a growing township in the extreme south of the Jamui subdivision It was built by Capt Browne, the first representative of the British rule in this corner of the district *

*See 'Some notes on Monghyr'—D G Crawford (Bengal Past and Present) July 1908 Archaeological Survey of India, Annual Report, 1926-27, Archaeological Survey of India, Annual Report 1922-23

CHAPTER III

THE PEOPLE

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The first census was taken in 1872 and recorded a population of 18,14,638 for the district as then constituted. During the next nine years there was an increase of 8.5 per cent, the number returned at the census of 1881 being 19,69,950. Part of the increase may have been due to a more accurate enumeration, the increase in the next decade was 3.3 per cent and the population in 1891 was 20,36,021. The greatest gain was in the Begusarai subdivision, while in the Jamui subdivision there was practically no increase of the population, and in the north east of the subdivision there was a heavy loss due to epidemics.

The growth of population from 1901 to 1951 is shown in the following table* —

Census Year	Persons	Variation	Net Variation 1901—1951	Males	Variation	Females	Variation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1901	20,70,191			10,12,229		10,57,962	
1911	21,95,030	+64,809		10,44,468	+32,239	10,00,532	+32,170
1921	20,29,963	-10,033		10,06,330	-38,938	10,24,433	-66,037
1931	22,57,134	+2,37,189		11,45,797	+1,40,267	11,41,357	+1,16,022
1941	23,64,544	+2,77,390		12,84,054	+1,38,257	12,80,400	+1,39,103
1951	28,49,127	+2,84,583	+7,78,936	14,34,624	+1,50,740	14,14,303	+1,33,843

Census of 1901—At the census of 1901 it was found that the population had only increased by 1.6 per cent, a result attributed to a severe epidemic of plague in 1900-01 and, in a minor degree, to emigration from the district. Monghyr, however, was the only district in South Bihar which escaped a loss of population. This was due to the fact that to the north of the Ganga there is a rich alluvial tract, which attracts emigrants and was free from plague in 1901. The portion south of that river sustained a small loss, an increase in the four thanas having been more than obliterated by a heavy loss in the tracts where plague had appeared, viz., the town of Monghyr and its environs, and two thanas in the west, to which the epidemic spread from Mokameh in the Patna district.

* District Census Handbook, Monghyr, 1951, published in 1956

The population trends shown in the census of 1901 are summarised as follows in the Census Report —

“The fertile Begusarai subdivision on the north of the Ganges, again shows the greatest growth of population. The headquarters subdivision is stationary, owing mainly to the outbreak of the plague and the consequent mortality and confusion, but the removal of certain offices of the East Indian Railway from Jamalpur to Calcutta had also affected the population to some extent. The only thana in this subdivision which shows a marked increase is Kharagpur, which at the time of the census harboured a considerable number of plague refugees from Monghyr. In the Jamui subdivision also the population is practically stationary, the sparsely inhabited and the hilly thanas in the south east, Jamui and Chakai, continue to show steady development, while Sheikhpura and Sikandra in the north east have lost ground. The decrease is specially marked in Sheikhpura, which adjoins the Mokamch thana in Patna and, like it, has suffered greatly from the ravages of plague. Both Sheikhpura and Sikandra were decadent in 1891 also, when the prevalence of fever was blamed for the result’

Census of 1911—Regarding the growth of population shown by the census in 1911, L. S. S. O. Malley observes in the Census Report of 1911 as follows —

“All the other districts of South Bihar have a far scantier population, owing to the hills and jungle in the south. Monghyr is the most populous of them, but the north of the district is an integral part of North Bihar, being a fertile alluvial plain intersected by large rivers and subject to inundation. It has a mean density of 715 per square mile, the maximum of 961 being found in the Teghra thana and the minimum of 562 in Gogri, which is a low lying tract with a large area of marsh and grass jungle. South of the Ganges there are, on the average, only 528 persons to the square mile. Here the most thickly populated tracts are the thanas lying along the Ganges, south of which there is hilly country, bearing a growth of scrub jungle, with a rocky surface unfavourable to cultivation. The Kharagpur thana with 415 persons to the square mile begins to show a marked diminution, which reaches its lowest point in the jungle and waste lands in the extreme south of the district the soil supporting only 231 persons per square mile in Chakai.”

On the whole, the decade 1901—1911 was prosperous and in spite of epidemics of plague and fever, the natural increase of population was marked by 64,809 or 31 per cent. On this occasion the Begusarai subdivision recorded a very slow increase due to the epidemic of plague. The Sadar subdivision showed a general increase in all thanas except Kharagpur and Surajgarha. The population of the former of these had been swollen by plague refugees in 1901, and the latter was depopulated in 1911 by an outbreak of plague at census time and by an exodus of labourers to cut the crops in Sheikhpura. The increase in the Jammu subdivision was ascribed to the increase of cultivation in Jammu thana.

Census of 1921—In the words of Mr P. C. Tallents the results of the census of 1921 were as follows —

“The year 1911 was unhealthy as elsewhere with higher mortality than usual from cholera, plague and fever, but the number of births was well in excess of the number of deaths in this and every other year of the ten except 1917, 1918 and 1919. In this district also the plague seems to be losing its force, for two-thirds of the total mortality from plague occurred in the first half of the decade. Outbreaks of cholera occurred at intervals, more than five thousand deaths were ascribed to it in 1911, 1915, 1917 and 1918, the last being the worst attack. The deaths from fever increased steadily from 1914 to 1918, the year of the influenza epidemic, and then sank to normal again in 1920. Generally speaking the health of the district was good down to 1916. In that year the Burhi Gandak was in flood in the north of the district and damage was done to property and crops, but the public health suffered little. In 1917 cholera, plague and fever brought the death rate up to 41·6 per mille against an average of 31·8 for the preceding five years. There was also a heavy flood in the Ganges. This damaged the autumn and winter crops and reduced the stocks in hand which were further depleted by exports in response to high prices in the early months of 1918. The outbreak of cholera in 1918 was of exceptional violence, and caused 16,000 deaths. In August there was heavy rain which damaged the *bhadas* crops and in September the rains ceased. All the three crops were affected and in the *tal* area further damage was done by insect pests. The people, harassed by the influenza epidemic and the high prices of imported articles, with their stock of foodgrains at its lowest, were thus confronted at the end of the year with a general failure of crops. In Jammu and Kharagpur thanas arrangements had to be

made for the distribution of gratuitous relief and agricultural loans were distributed on a liberal scale. The able-bodied men emigrated in large numbers in many cases leaving their families behind them to be supported by gratuitous relief. The total number of deaths in the year was 131 000 of which fever and influenza contributed 98 000. The deaths were 50 000 in excess of births and the death rate rose to 61·2 per mille. In 1911 it fell to 40·7 but the birth rate dropped to 30·5 from which it again rose slightly to 31·5 in 1920. The monsoon of 1919 was a specially good one and the fine crops that resulted from it went far towards re-establishing the normal economic state of affairs. For the decade the recorded births were well in excess of the recorded deaths by 39 000 in the case of males and by 26 000 in the case of females. The census showed that the loss of population in this district was 1 05 534 or 4·92 per cent only 57% less than the loss in Bhagalpur which was the heaviest in the province. There was a large gun in Jamalpur thana and a small gun in Monghyr owing to the extension of the railway workshops at Jamalpur. Otherwise there was a loss in every thana in the district. In the Sadar subdivision the loss was heaviest in Lakhisarai. In 1911 a large number of labourers were engaged in cutting the crops in Lakhisarai thana at the time of the census but in 1921 the crop-cutting had been almost completed before the census was taken so that the loss recorded here exaggerates the loss to the permanent population. There was however some real loss for the total number of recorded deaths in this thana during the decade exceeded the total number of births.

Census of 1931—In the Census Report of 1931 W. G. Lacey had mentioned that the average density per square mile of the population was 582 but the distribution of population was very irregular. The subdivision of Begusarai recorded a mean density of 864 while the Sadar and Jamui subdivisions recorded the mean density of 582 and 343 respectively to per square mile.

Regarding the incidence of population W. G. Lacey further mentions as follows—

It is true that the year 1921 which had a death rate of 31·2 per mille was less healthy than most of the following years but the birth rate had already risen to 40·7 as compared with 30·5 in 1919 and 31·5 in the following year. The best productive year in the whole decade was the last but even then the rate of survival was

about 4.5 per mille. It was in 1930 that the most severe outbreak of cholera occurred, causing 14,000 deaths. The average annual mortality from this disease was just over 5,000 and there was only one year in which the death roll did not run into four figures. The total number of deaths from plague in this period was about 7,500, but it is little disquieting to find that in Monghyr alone of all the districts where this scourge lingers the latter half of the decade showed little improvement over the first half. In the last three years there were 2,500 deaths from plague. Small pox was not in evidence at all until 1926, but from that year onward it was responsible for the loss of about 6,000 lives, the most severe outbreak (here as elsewhere) falling in 1927. The first two and the last three years of the decade witnessed plentiful harvests. In 1923 the *bhadai* crop was damaged by floods, while scarcity of rain led to an indifferent yield of winter rice. The Gandak embankment was breached in the following year and this caused a certain amount of loss to the cultivators north of the river. In south Monghyr the paddy harvest of 1927 was very disappointing.

"The net increase of 12.67 per cent in the population of this district since the previous census is greater than that recorded by any other Bihar district except Patna. In Begusarai subdivision the growth is less rapid than elsewhere, probably owing to the same causes which checked its progress in the two previous decades. It is also reported that cholera and plague were practically alive in this part of the district in recent years. Jamui subdivision in the south has increased its numbers exceptionally last, just as Banka subdivision in the south of Bhagalpur district has done. In both these areas there is a fairly large proportion of aboriginals and low-caste labourers, who would normally have sought employment away from home in mines, mills, docks, tea gardens and the like, but were restrained from doing so by the industrial depression abroad and the comparatively easy conditions in their own district. Moreover, District Officer states that fresh land is constantly being brought under cultivation in the Jamui subdivision. In the Sadar subdivision, where, the general rate of increase strikes a mean between the two extremes the most rapid progress has been achieved in the purely urban thana of Jamalpur. The rural thanas, except Surajgarha, have maintained a remarkably consistent level of expansion, and the only reason that can be given for the mere smaller increase

in Surajgarha is that an epidemic of small-pox was in progress there at census time and have driven a number of people away from their homes temporarily."

The actual increase in the district population according to the census was 2,57,189

Census of 1941.—The total increase of population in 1941 census was 2,77,390 or the population had increased by 12.13 per cent. The census operations were cut down due to war emergency and the detailed report of the 1941 census was not published

Census of 1951.—The census of 1951 enumerated a total increase of 2,84,583 or 11 per cent from the 1941 census. The period that elapsed between the decade 1941–1951 was normal so far as the health of the people was concerned. The epidemic of plague had practically disappeared, though stray cases of plague had been reported from Begusarai in 1945. The net increase of population in course of five decades (1901–1951) had been 7,78,936 or about 37.05 per cent.

Total population according to subdivisions and revenue thanas.

The district has four subdivisions, viz, Sadar, Khagaria, Begusarai and Jamui. The following table will show the population of each subdivision as enumerated in the census of 1951 :—

Subdivision	Population			Males			Females		
	Total	Rural	Urban.	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sadar	9,37,204	7,47,039	1,90,165	4,76,063	3,75,689	1,01,274	4,60,241	3,71,350	88,891
Khagaria	5,84,902	5,74,852	10,050	3,00,811	2,95,498	5,315	2,84,091	2,79,356	4,735
Begusarai	7,93,942	7,43,109	44,842	3,92,594	3,69,943	22,651	4,01,348	3,79,157	22,191
Jamui	5,33,079	5,11,019	22,060	2,64,456	2,53,050	11,406	2,68,623	2,57,969	10,654

The revenue thanawise population, etc., as enumerated in the census of 1951 was as follows:—

Subdivision	Area in square miles	Population			Density
		Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6
SADAR SUBDIVISION	1,168	9 37,204	4,76 903	4,06 241	802
1 Monghyr	281	2,27,259	1,18 364	1,08 895	809
2 Jamalpur	4	44 172	23 937	20 235	11 043
3 Surajgarha	174	95,346	47,256	48 090	548
4 Lakhsara	221	1,77,825	90 727	87,098	804
5 Kharagpur	255	1,97,215	99,238	97,977	773
6 Shuklapura	233	1,95,387	97,441	97,946	837
KHAGARIA SUBDIVISION	757	5 84,902	3 00 811	2,84,091	651
1 Gogri	757	5,84,902	3,00 811	2,84 091	651
BEGUSARAI SUBDIVISION	715	7,93,942	3,92,594	4 01,348	1 110
1 Teglira	235	2,89,539	1 42 150	1,47,389	1 367
2 Begusarai	480	5,04,403	2,50 444	2,53,959	1,447
JAMUI SUBDIVISION	1,303	5,33,079	2,64,450	2,68,629	409
1 Sikandra	243	1,41,230	69,155	72,081	581
2 Jamui	444	1,94,625	95 809	98,816	438
3 Chakai	616	1,97,218	99,492	97,726	320

Density.

The incidence of density of the Monghyr district in 1951 census was 722 per square mile as against 650 per square mile in 1941. The density for the State was 575 to the square mile. The density of the subdivisions and the revenue thanas has been given before. The density of the Begusarai subdivision is highest, while the incidence of density in the Jamui subdivision is lowest in the district. Barring Jamalpur police-station which is essentially a town, the Teglira police-station is thickly populated in the district, the incidence of density being 1,367 to the square mile. The incidence of density of the Chakai police-station is the lowest in the district, being 220 to the square mile. The density of the revenue thana of Chakai being 320 per square mile.

Migration

The incidence of emigration is high in the district. Emigration is most active from the south of the district, where the infertility of the soil in a large part of the Jamui subdivision forces the people to find employment elsewhere, particularly in the coalfields of Chotanagpur and the tea gardens of Assam. The figures of emigration from individual district to other States of India were not compiled at the 1951 census. The Census Report 1951 (Vol V, Bihar, Part I Report) only gives number of person born in the district and enumerated outside. The number of emigrants within the State comes to 1,17,570.

There is also a movement of the population to the north of the district and every year, in the months of January and February large numbers cross the Ganga to graze their flocks in *pargana* Pharkiya, a tract of low lying country, which is mostly flooded in the rainy season, but affords excellent pasturage in the drier months. Migration from village to village is rare, except along the banks of the Ganga and its affluents where the frequent shiftings of the river beds necessitate the movement of the villagers. Migration of a temporary nature from the neighbouring districts of Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur into *pargana* Pharkiya is also common after the rains. At this period a large number of cultivators come with their cattle and till land at a low rate (*dohita* cultivation), returning to their homes when the *rabri* crops have been cut.

The incidence of immigration is low in the district. According to the census of 1951 out of the total population of 28,49,127 there was a population of 97,849 born outside the district but enumerated within the district when the census operation took place. The population of 97,849 is distributed as follows according to their birth places —

Patna Division	18,037
Tirhut Division	28,718
Bhagalpur Division (excluding Monghyr)	43,855
Chotanagpur Division	2,712
States, etc., in India beyond the State	3,861
Countries in Asia beyond India	1,152
Countries in Europe	10
Countries in America	4
Total	97,849

Distribution between Urban and Rural population

The proportion of the rural population to the urban is several times greater and the urban rural ratio is 1 : 10 according to the census of 1951. The rural population in 1951 was 25,82,010 while the urban population was 2,67,117. In 1901 there were four towns

in the district, viz, Monghyr, Jamalpur, Khagaria and Sheikhpura, which had an aggregate population of 71,436. The number of towns has increased by 1951 from four to thirteen, viz, Monghyr, Jamalpur, Barahiya, Lakhisarai, Teghra, Sheikhpura, Begusarai, Phulwaria, Jamui, Jhajha, Barughia, Khagaria and Kharagpur and the urban population had increased by about 270 per cent. The drift towards the towns is not intense as the district has not been industrialised yet to any appreciable extent to attract a large number of rural population. Except the railway workshops of Jamalpur and the cigarette factory of Monghyr the scope for the employment in the other existing industries of the district is meagre. The position will be altered to some extent when the Refineries and other allied industries start at Barauni.

Displaced Persons

The number of displaced persons in Monghyr was 1,254 in 1951 out of which 401 came from West Pakistan and 850 from East Pakistan.

The facilities allowed to displaced persons include educational assistance, technical and vocational training loans and other help to facilitate their settlement in industry and business, etc.

LANGUAGE

This section is taken from the last District Gazetteer of Monghyr. The language prevalent in the district is Hindi. It varies from more or less pure Hindi, with a vocabulary of Prakrit sounding words now only to be heard among the *purohits*, to the much altered Bihaui dialects of Maithili and Magahi, which constitute the ordinary speech of the people. With few exceptions they use the latter among themselves, though even the most rustic can usually understand the more correct Hindi spoken by the educated classes in the towns. In the Begusarai subdivision, and in the greater part of the portion of *Monghyr subdivision which lies north of the Ganga, Maithili is spoken* in the form classified by Dr. Grierson as Southern standard Maithili, a dialect which is not quite so pure as the true standard Maithili of Darbhanga. In the south of the Gogri thana and in the eastern portion of the Monghyr subdivision south of the Ganga, in what is known as the Kharagpur country, a variety of Maithili is spoken called the *Chhika Chiki* dialect. It closely resembles the dialect common in Bhagalpur, and its chief peculiarity is that a sound resembling 'O' (as in the English word 'hot') is added at the end of words. This sound is represented in transliteration some times by the letter 'o' as in *hamano*, my, and sometimes by 'a', as in *chalala*, he went. In the remainder of the district, the western portion of the south Gangetic tract, the main language of the people is the Magadhi or Magahi dialect of Bihar, which is the same as that spoken in Patna and Gaya*.

* G. A. Grierson—*Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol. V, Part II, 1903.

Broadly speaking, however, the river Ganga marks a linguistic boundary, Maithili being prevalent to the north and Magahi to the south. There is this further distinction, moreover, that the speech of the people in the north of the district bears more traces of its Prakrit origin than that to the south, and the people are less able to understand words of Persian derivation. The southern portion of the district has been more exposed to outside influences, and the people have not succeeded in preserving such purity of speech.

Santali is spoken by the Santals in thanas Chakai, Kharagpur and Jamui. Bengali is spoken by the Bengalis, scattered all over the district but concentrated in the towns. Urdu is confined to the towns.

The table below will show the number of persons, males and females speaking different languages as mother tongue enumerated in 1951 census —

Languages	Persons	Males	Females
Indo Aryan language—			
Hindi	27,93,241	14,01,253	13,91,988
Bengali	21,081	12,215	8,866
Marwari	1,604	487	1,117
Punjabi	354	254	100
Oriya	9	8	1
Gujrati	5		5
Nepali	3	3	
Munda languages—			
Santali	32,830	20,604	12,226

Bilingualism

The table below will show the number of persons who commonly use another Indian language in their everyday life in addition to their mother language —

Mother tongue	Total speakers	Total persons returned as speaking a language subsidiary to their mother language	Subsidiary language
Hindi	27,93,241	12,143	Bengali 8,149 Santali 3,734 Marwari 264 Oriya 5

Mother tongue.			Total speakers.	Total persons returned as speaking a language subsidiary to their mother-language.	Subsidiary language.		
Santali	..	.	32,830	7,275	Hindi	..	7,009
					Bengali	..	266
Bengali	..	..	21,081	3,202	Hindi	..	3,015
					Santali	..	187
Marwari	..	..	1,604	409	Hindi	..	401
					Santali	..	8
Punjabi	..	..	354	82	Hindi	..	82
Guzrati	..	..	5	2	Hindi	..	2
Nepali	..	.	3	1	Hindi	..	1

In the census of 1951 Urdu has been incorporated with Hindi. But for the sake of convenience the census of 1951 has mentioned that there were 1,37,055 returns of Urdu.

The scripts used are the Devanagri for Hindi. In the rural areas the *Kaithi* characters are also used. The persian script is used for Urdu. The immigrants use their own scripts.

RELIGION AND CASTE.

Hindus form the majority of the population. Next to Hindus are the Muhammadans. The Christians and Anglo-Indians form only small minority groups. The figures of each community as enumerated in the census of 1951 are as follows :—

	Persons.	Males	Females.
Hindus	26,10,087	13,14,019	12,96,068
Muhammadians	2,36,393	1,19,445	1,16,948
Sikhs	913	484	429
Jains	94	56	38
Buddhists	279	142	137
Christians*	1,350	667	683
Jews	1	1	

From the above table it is apparent that the Hindus are predominant in the district. They form about 91.60 per cent of the population. The percentage of Muhammadan is about 8 per cent and the other communities form only 0.41 per cent of the population.

* This will include 121 males and 116 females among the Anglo-Indians.

The tractwise distribution was as follows —

District and Tracts	Hindus		Sulhs		Jams		Buddhists		Missions		Christians		Jews	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1 Khingaria Police station (Excluding Khingaria town)	77 817	74 482	11	4	13	9			3 900	3 050	3	2		
2 Gogri, Parbatta and Chan than Police stations	1 30 285	1 21 550	5	3	14	11			11 205	10 682	10	3		
3 Balakhtiar Police station	62 684	3 31			10	7		3	9 439	9 118	3			
4 Teghria Revenue Thana (Excluding Phulwarin and Teghria towns)	1 17 1	1 28 111							9 972	9 198				
5 Begusarai Police station (Excluding Begusarai town)	7 33	25 02	9	2					6 189	6 893				
6 Baha Police station	6 991	54 78							7 433	7 312				
7 Bariarpur and Bakhti Police stations	9 5 47	9 33							4 790	4 492				
8 Monghyr and Buryagarha Revenue Thanas (Excluding Monghyr town)	1 19 704	1 18 516	70	92					6 308	4 504	20	37		
9 Lakhisarai and Kharagpur Revenue Thanas (Excluding Kharagpur Lakhisarai and Buihee towns)	1 58 181	1 54 341	15	27					8 143	8 671	8	13		
10 Sheikhpura Revenue Thana (Excluding Sheikhpura and Barbiglia towns)	74 312	73 420	11	25	2	2			9 825	11 635	44	56		
11 Sikandria Revenue Thana	62 901	62 212							6 254	6 869				
12 Jamui Police station (Excluding Jamui town)	45 708	47 593							5 796	5 360				
13 Chakai Revenue Thana and Lachimpur Police station (Excluding Jhalia Town)	1 21 23	1 21 576	22	12					11 131	11 231		2		
14 All towns of Monghyr District (Monghyr, Jaulpur, Kharagpur, Lakhisarai, Buihee, Sheikhpura, Barbiglia, Jamui, Thajha, Khagaria, Begusarai, Phulwarin and Teghria)	1 19 602	1 08 279	341	279	11	9	142	134	19 960	17 230	583	370	1	

The Hindus as well as the Muhammadans are evenly distributed according to their respective proportion both in the rural and urban areas. All the other minor communities, viz., the Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians and Jews are mostly found in the urban areas, their number in the rural areas was very small.

Scheduled Castes

The number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes was 12,71,530 in 1951. They were distributed as follows —

	Rural Total			Urban Total			District Total		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Scheduled Castes	4 20 100	2 11 300	2 08 832	10 820	9 903	9 872	4 31 977	2 21 273	2 18 704
Scheduled Tribes	1 146	27 980	27 066	1 166	1 81	1 82	56 712	28 504	8 148
Other Backward Classes	6 84 131	3 43 000	3 40 625	90 710	47 659	43 030	7 74 841	3 71 186	3 93 655

The above table will show that out of 12,71,530 of these classes only 1,11,701 were living in the urban areas. They mostly live in villages and are dependent either on daily labour in the fields or are small cultivators.

Principal Communities

Figures were not compiled castewise in the census of 1941 and 1951. The last census which mentioned the distribution of castes and sub-castes was the one of 1931. Since then considerable changes have taken place and the repetition of the figures of 1931 will not serve much purpose.

Hindus—Besides the four traditional divisions viz. the Brahmana, Kshatriya or Rajput, Vaishya and Shudra, the each division has numerous castes and sub-castes. The last District Gazetteer of Monghyr published in 1926 has given an account of the six principal castes of the district as follows —

Ahirs—The Ahirs or Gauras are an agricultural caste, whose hereditary occupation is that of herdsmen. They tend flocks and herds, and though most are settled cultivators some still roam about from place to place, seeking fresh pasturage and selling milk to the Gauras who

prepare *ghee*, which is purchased whole sale by the *mahajans*. They are mostly numerous in the Gogri thana, where they came originally to graze their cattle on its extensive pasture lands, but stayed to cultivate. As a class they are said to be less litigious than Babhans but no less fond of a fight, and they sometimes display an aptitude for combination which is uncommon among other sections of the population.

“*Babhans*—The *Babhans* are mostly engaged in cultivation and the characteristic occupation of the caste is that of settled agriculturists. They comprise tenure holders of all grades and occupancy and non occupancy raiyats but are to a large extent petty proprietors as well as tenants. According to their own account, though ranking as high caste cultivators, they are not particularly sought after as tenants, because they cannot be called upon for *begar* or forced labour, and also because they cannot pay a high rate of rent, for they will not plough themselves, but employ labourers for the purpose. The truth appears to be that their bold and overbearing character, and their tendency to combine in strong and pugnacious brotherhood, render them undesirable tenants in the eyes of an exacting landlord.

Dhanuks—The *Dhanuks* are a servant class found in every place where there are high caste Hindus. They perform the menial duties of the household, along with their wives and children, and are generally employed as personal servants in the households of the upper classes. Some of the *Dhanuks* are also cultivators, and the females act as maid servants.

“*Musahars*—The *Musahars* are field labourers whose wages are paid in kind, according to the immemorial custom in the villages. They live in a kind of social thralldom, sometimes selling themselves, their wives and children to lifelong servitude for pittance sums. With an ingrained aversion to emigration, pilfering in times of plenty, and living upon roots, rats, snails and shells, they cause considerable difficulty to Government officials in times of dearth. They live apart from the *basti*, and are not so numerous in the north western part of the district as in the south eastern. The bulk of the caste are field labourers and palankeen bearers, and only a few have attained to the dignity of cultivating on their own account or acquired occupancy rights. The name *Musahar* is believed to mean rat catcher or rat eater, and is an appropriate designation, for they

are professional rat-catchers Mr Lockwood in his work *Natural History, Sport and Travel* writes — 'The Mushirs, or Mousers, as they may be called, are found in every village of Monghyr, and are half starved even in times of plenty They seldom see coin, but receive their scanty wages in coarse grain, which they flavour with rats, mice, snails and jungle roots, whilst living in hovels which an English pig would consider poor accommodation One would imagine that such persons must find difficulty in getting wives, but the contrary is the case, for bachelors and spinsters are unknown Directly they arrive at the age of puberty they present themselves at their landlord's house, and having signed a deed binding themselves to remain in bondage for the term of their natural lives, receive a few shillings in return, with which to entertain their friends at a marriage feast, and to set up house'

"*Dosadhs*—The Dosadhs are another caste probably of aboriginal descent Their characteristic occupation is to serve as watchmen or *chaukidars*, but they are also employed as village messengers (*gorait*), grooms, elephant drivers, grass and wood cutters, *punkah-coolies* and porters They rank in this district among the most persistent criminals known to the police, but have a good character as carriers of goods Some of the *chaukidars* and *goraits* hold small allotments of land rent free in return for the services rendered by them to the village, but generally speaking their thriftless habits hinder them from rising above the grade of occupancy riyats, and a very large proportion of them are merely tenants at will or landless day labourers

"*Koiris*—The Koiris are agriculturists pure and simple but they are distinguished from the Kurmis and other purely cultivating castes by their skill in rearing tobacco, and other special produce requiring more careful cultivation than the staple crops In the neighbourhood of large towns they work as market-gardeners Many Koiris are tenure holders, and here and there members of the caste have risen to be petty zamindars, but most of them are prosperous cultivators, holding occupancy rights"

Some of the remarks in the last District Gazetteer do not hold good now For example it is difficult to agree that the Musahars or the Dosadhs were exactly as pictured in the observations quoted above In any case the Musahars do not sell themselves or their wives and children to life long servitude for petty sum now The financial condition of the Musahars is certainly still bad but some of them have

started regular cultivation and own small bits of land. They work as field labourers but a good percentage of them has migrated to industrial areas. As *Palki* is going out of use they are no longer professional *Palki* bearers. The observation that the Dosadhs are of an aboriginal descent is also far too sweeping and some of them now claim Rajput origin. It is not correct to describe the Dosadhs as the most persistent criminals. Many of them are employed in offices and in domestic service particularly to serve as cooks. The Welfare Department has been striving for the uplift of such backward people. The remarks on the Babhans also cannot be accepted now.

There had been a great change in the social status of the lower castes due to the change in the tenancy laws and the abolition of the zamindari. The Bihar and Orissa Kamiyauti Agreement Act of 1920 had abolished the *Kamiyauti* or bonded labour system. Before that it was quite common that landlords big or small had *Kamias* or labourers tied down to them. Usually some paltry sum was advanced as loan and the interest was paid in the form of labour which was to be continued from generation to generation. The Bihar Land Reforms Act 1950 has eliminated several obnoxious tenancy laws. Apart from that the spread of education among the backward classes has brought in fundamental changes in their social status.

Scheduled Castes—The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes according to the census of 1951 formed about 45 per cent of the population. The Musahars and Dosadhs under the Constitution were notified as Scheduled Caste. Apart from them there are a number of such castes such as Chamar, Dhobi, Bauri, Ghasi and Mehtar etc. Ahirs have been notified under Backward Classes. Under Scheduled Tribes mainly come Santhals, Bhuiyas, Kols and Koras. Regarding the Tribes and the aboriginal races the last District Gazetteer of Monghyr published in 1926 mentions as follows—

Tradition points to a former predominance of aboriginal races which were ousted by Rajput immigrants. The northern portion of the district is believed to have been long under the sway of the Bhars, traces of whose rule are still found in ruined forts in the Begusarai subdivision and in *tappa* Sarunja to the extreme north-east. The *Pharkiya pargana* again is said to have been held by lawless tribes of Dosadhs who were eventually subdued by a Rajput soldier. The south was comprised in the Jharkhand of the Muhammadan historians, a broad belt of the forest and rolling country which beginning in the Son and stretching as far as Midnapore was the boundary of and barrier against early Aryan invasions. Tradition relates that in the Kharagpur *pargana* the original inhabitants

were Khetauris, who were ruled over by 52 chiefs, until they were overcome by three Rajput brothers, the founders of the Kharagpur Raj, who had taken service with one of them. To the south of Kharagpur the country was similarly seized from the Khetauris by the Rajput ancestor of the Rajas of Gidhaur.

"The south of the district is still the home of castes and tribes of aboriginal descent, such as Santals, Bhuiyas, Kols and Koras, among whom the Santals alone number 23,000, almost all found in thanas Chakai, Jamui and Kharagpur. As elsewhere in India, the aboriginal races have been driven back by successive waves of conquest into the hilly tracts, where it was impracticable to follow them up, and whence they have subsequently extended themselves again towards the plains. There they have come into contact with the Hindu community, and considerable commingling has resulted. Ethnologically, the difference is still easily perceptible. The features of the inhabitants of the hills, with their low brows and flat faces, have a strong resemblance to the Mongolian type, and they contrast strikingly with the high browed Aryan featured Babhans of the northern parts of the district.

"The Khetauris or Katauris are believed by Mr W B Oldham to have been the old Hinduized and aristocratic section of the aboriginal Moler, whose descendants still survive in the Sauria Paharias of the Santal Parganas. He calls them the brethren and kinsman of the Maler who loved the ease and fertility of the plains and gave the race its kings, and princes and later on coalesced and intermarried with the Rajput Aryans as they approached, and took their Hinduism with the status of its soldier caste, and never daring to call themselves Kshatriyas at once, were found with the name of Kshatauri or Katauri, as the nearest permissible approach to it. The Katauris have long since disappeared from the west and south of the tract which they used to cover, and have receded towards their ancestral hills driven back, I believe, by the Bhuiyan invasion from the south about three centuries ago, which established the petty kingdom of Lachmipur, the pargana of Passai, and most of the *ghatalis* of Sarath Deoghar and immediately preceded the formation of the sovereignties to Birbhum and Kharagpur by two Pathan adventurers *.

* W B Oldham—Some Historical and Ethnical Aspects of the Burdwan district (Calcutta 1894)

Regarding this theory, Mr H McPherson*, I.C.S., writes, after studying the unpublished manuscript of Buchanan Hamilton and with special reference to the Santal Parganas —“Dr Buchanan's notes put an entirely different complexion on the disintegration of Katakuri ascendancy. He shows that the princes of the Sauria Maler in the plains north and west of the hills, and in the Manjhwe valley within the northern hills, were of a caste called Nat or Nat Pahariya who were closely akin to, if at all distinguishable from the Maler. These Nats were not displaced till Akbar's advance about 1576. Katakuri domination was confined to the region west of the hills, and the Bhuiyas were not invaders who helped Pathan adventurers to overthrow the Katakuris, but were the aborigines of the forest tracts, over whom the Katakuris exercised sway, and to whom they were closely related by blood or intermarriage. The Katakuris had possession of the more open country to the north, the Bhuiyas held the forest tracts as *ghatwals* under the Katakuris. The adventurers who overthrew the Katakuris of Kharagpur were not Pathans, but Rajputs. The foundation of the Pathan Kingdom of Birbhum occurred about the same time as the expulsion of the Katakuris from Kharagpur, but there was no apparent connection between the two events. Both occurred about the middle of the sixteenth century. A grandson of the Rajput conqueror of Kharagpur gave offence to Akbar and was treacherously assassinated in 1601. His son was taken to Delhi and there embraced the Muhammadan faith, and Kadir Ali who was Raja of Kharagpur in Buchanan's time, was the direct descendant of this Muhammadan convert. Younger branches of the family remained Rajput and some of them received *ghatwalis*, a circumstance which gave much offence to the Bhuiya *ghatwals*.”

“The proposition that the Bhuiyas were not the sixteenth century invaders who overthrew the Katakuris, but the original inhabitants of the forest tracts and guardians of the passes, who owed some sort of allegiance to the Katakuris and in turn to their successors, the Rajputs, is proved not only by Dr Buchanan's historical notes, but also by his ethnical enquiries. The Bhuiyas belong to the same Dravidian stock as the hill Maler. They have lost their Dravidian tongue and have taken on a veneer of Hinduism. Their chiefs made the usual Khatriya pretensions and calling themselves Surajbansis disclaim connection with their Bhuiya kinsmen. But the physical characteristics of all are alike Dravidian and in Capt. Brown's time (1772–1778) the chiefs never thought of claiming to be other than Bhuiya. The highest chiefs of the Bhuiyas are called Tikaitis, and are supposed to have received the mark of royalty. Inferior chiefs are called Thakur, and the younger members of noble Bhuiya families are called Babus.”

“Buchanan, repeating the tradition current in his time says that the Katakuris appear to have lived in brick houses and to have

* Later Sir Hugh McPherson K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

been somewhat more civilized than the barbarians by whom they were expelled. The same tradition still lingers. Not only is the name of the Khetauris still widely known among the people to the south, but the tradition that at one time they were the owners of the soil, is confirmed by remains attributed to them. There are ruins of brick houses at Taranhar, one mile from Bāmdah, with old bricks of peculiar size and dimensions, which are said to have been built by them, and in Raja Tarai, a hamlet of Karangarh two miles from the Kakuria inspection bungalow, there are the remains of what seems to have been a fort, which the villagers allege was once occupied by the Khetauris. A curious instance of the belief in the wealth of the Khetauris is reported. A few years ago, it is said, some Khetauris came from the Santal Parganas and stayed in Taranhar for a night, during which they dug up the ground in several places searching for buried treasure. The villagers allege that their leader was a descendant of the Khetauris, who had discovered from an old paper that there was treasure buried at a certain place in the village, and as the party decamped in the dark, the villagers all suspected that they had actually found buried treasure.

There are several smaller organisations working for the upgrading of the Harijans. The most important organisation is the Depressed Classes' League with an All India field. This organisation was established for the propagation of national ideas among the Harijans. During the Round Table Conference in 1932-33 the League worked with affiliation with the Indian National Congress. The League has been organised throughout India by Shri Jagjiwan Ram, Railway Minister, Government of India. Monghyr is also a unit.

Muhammadans—Monghyr seems to have attracted the Muhammadans at an early period, the town of Monghyr being made one of their seats of Government. Smaller settlements were also attracted over the district round a number of chiefs who received jagirs from the early Muhammadan emperors and kings. The Muhammadan pockets are especially noticeable at Monghyr, Sheikhpura, Hussana bad and Ballia Lakshminia. Among the Muhammadans the most numerous sections in the district of Monghyr are Sheikhs, Jolahas and Kunjras. There are still some old aristocratic families in the towns and the interior.

Religious Beliefs, Manners and Customs

The religious beliefs of the Hindus and Muslims, the two principal communities in the district of Monghyr, are almost the same as those existing elsewhere in the State. It is not necessary to go extensively into them here. Briefly, it may be mentioned that many of the orthodox beliefs are slowly changing. Among the educated classes there is hardly any rigidity in social inter-mixing due to differences in religion. The Hindus' religious faith is essentially eclectic and has absorbed various currents of thoughts and

beliefs There is room among the Hindus for the orthodox worshippers of a legion of gods and goddesses along with the believers in strict monotheism of the *Upanishada* and even one who does not believe in any God The number of temples and mosques in the district are quite large References have been made elsewhere to the Christian Missions and their impact on the cultural aspect of this district The Christians, a minority, are known for their marked social habits and a community life According to the Census Handbook Anglo-Indians number only 237 in this district

Orthodox Hindus observe various customs, from the very conception of the child in the womb till death Traditionally there are 40 *samskars* which are to be observed but now very few of them are observed strictly There are particular taboos which the expectant mother has to observe during her pregnancy She is supposed to observe various restrictions even after the birth of the child and till certain *pujas* are done The *namakaran* is generally held on the 12th day after the birth of the child provided the child was not born during the *satausa* period *Mundan* or the first cutting of the hair of the child and *upanayan* or sacred thread ceremony are other important functions in the life of the child The next important *samskar* is the marriage, rites of which are regulated according to the customs and traditions of the particular community The old idea of fixing of marriage after detailed examination of the horoscope is slowly liquidating Inter-caste and interracial marriages have become quite common The consent of the bridegroom or the bride is not ignored even if the marriage is done according to orthodox restrictions In Hindu marriages of this side *sindurdan* by the bridegroom on the forehead of the bride is a very common custom *Sindurdan* has now percolated to the other castes and communities as well Marriage under the Civil Marriage Act is not uncommon Under the new Hindu law marriages are also *observed by registration*

There are also particular customs according to which funeral rites are to be performed For Hindus, cremation is usually done and it is taken to be the religious duty of the son to perform the last rite of his father for his spiritual salvation The person, who kindles fire in the pyre, has to observe several restrictions for a particular period In a Muhammadan burial recital of verses from the holy *Koran* is invariably done and the last prayers are offered near the graveyard After the grave is closed the *imam* or *fakir* recites verses of the *Koran* and prayer is offered for the peace of the soul On the 40th day alms are distributed and a dinner is given to friends and relatives

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

For the Hindus, the law of inheritance is governed by the Hindu Law and in the case of the Mahammadans, by the Mohammadan Law,

A Hindu's property is never held in abeyance. It is the general principle of the Hindu Law that property devolves on the sons on the death of the father. According to Manu, the great law giver, "to the nearest *sapinda* the inheritance next belongs". A Hindu accrues his right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived but such right cannot be accrued in the separate property of his father. There are two schools of Hindu Law, *Dayabhag* and *Mitakshra* which govern different sections of the Hindus.

The position of women in this district along with the women elsewhere has been very much improved since the passing of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1956. A Hindu daughter has now as good a claim in her father's property as the son, provided her father does not debar her by law. Widow marriage and divorce are coming in though not common. Monogamy is the rule now.

So far as Mohammadans are concerned the father has the absolute right in the property and can debar any of the sons from inheritance. Among Mohammadans the daughter has as good a claim in her father's property as the son and there is a fixed ratio of the rights of son and daughter and the other relatives.

Family Life.

The old idea of joint family system among the Hindus is rapidly liquidating even in the villages. The shift of the more intelligent and educated section from the rural areas to the towns is adding to the liquidation of the joint family system in the rural areas. Family life is becoming more and more individualistic. Usually the branch of the family which earns more money slowly separates from the poorer branch. Family life in the villages is disintegrating and educated persons as a class are shifting to the towns.

The previous idea of a Hindu marriage being more sacramental than contractual is on the wane. The orthodox restrictions of marriage alliance between particular relatives are, however, still basically followed. Contract marriages under Act III of 1874 are not unpopular. The number of civil marriages, inter-caste marriages and inter-provincial marriages is very small in the district but accepted as a matter of course. Dowry system is still prevalent in some shape or the other. In middle class families the marriage of a daughter has become a problem due to the demand of dowry. Widow re-marriage is not held to be abnormal now. Working girls have no more difficulties to get married than others. But it has got to be admitted that although theoretically women are held in high esteem, they are not given their proper position yet either in the rural or the urban areas. Still economically, women are dependent on their husbands, fathers or sons or others due to the social structure. Independent earning by women is still not common. It is a fact that the women of the lower castes or the working girls are economically better off owing to their earning status. It is, unfortunately, this

backwardness of the women as a class that is holding back a broad based social upgrading. There are however, distinct signs of a break and the Indian National Congress Bharat Sewak Samaj All India Women's Council Social Service Board and various other voluntary social services organisations are actively engaged in broad basing the social structure where women will have their full share. The spread of education among women in Monghyr district has been steady but not phenomenal. Only recently a Girls College has been started in Monghyr. Marital age has been extended generally.

Prostitutes

It is rather disgusting to find that practically all the prostitutes in Monghyr town have their habitation in *Chowk* area which is the very heart of the town. There has been no organised effort to segregate them. The number does not appear to have declined although there has not been any particular survey as to their number or condition. Some of the Muslim prostitutes had left the district and the country for Pakistan in the wake of the communal disturbances of 1946. The abolition of zamindaris and the economic deterioration of the hitherto cushioned moneyed class has visibly affected the economic condition of these women. There is no doubt that this class had kept up the flow of classical music and dance for several decades when dancing in a household would have been held as intolerable and immoral and music was a rarity. So far as underground traffic in women drinking and particular criminal offences associated with sex and drink are concerned it may be mentioned that there is nothing particular about this district. Figures for detected traffic in women are not available. Drinking and gambling are discouraged.

Home Life

There has been a somewhat exhaustive treatment of the types of dwelling furniture decoration dress and ornaments food amusement and festivities in the rewritten District Gazetteer of Saran. It may broadly be mentioned that the observations there have their bearing on this district as well. The villages in this district are usually clustered together within a space of the village and apart from the cultivation land. There is usually a small homestead land adjoining the house. The individual houses are not sited within the cultivation land of the tenants which is the common feature in some other parts of India. Villages have not grown as haphazardly as towns have. Most of the houses in the rural areas are *kutchra* being built of mud and plaster with thatched roof and usually well to-do men have a small *angan* attached to the house. The *diara* villages are particularly liable to be inundated by floods and burnt down by fire and a very austere type of hutments are the usual dwellings in the *diara* areas. There is no sewerage system within the village and there is a general lack of a sense of sanitation which is also quite noticeable in the urban areas. In the rural areas

lavatory does not exist excepting in the houses of well-to-do people and the problem of cleansing the lavatory is becoming rather acute. But the open spaces in the outskirts of the villages and the nearby fields are commonly used by the villagers to make up the lack of proper privies in their individual houses.

The growth of the towns in this district has been treated separately. It may be mentioned that excepting Monghyr none of the present towns in Monghyr district has had any planned programme behind its growth. Monghyr also was forced to adopt a planned programme because of the great earthquake of 1934. The towns have one common pattern along with the towns elsewhere in Bihar. The bazar portion is usually crowded. Slums are not segregated and there is a clear weightage from the municipalities for the better upkeep of the areas where the officials and richer folks live, although the main municipal income comes from the bazar portion. The houses in the towns are usually brick built with mortar and cement. Housing condition in the towns is already an acute problem and portions of a house are being let out on rent without proper facilities for separate bath room or lavatory. The housing problem can only be solved after a large number of houses have been made available for the people of lower and smaller income groups. As they are, there is not much of privacy or comfort in the houses of the common men.

Furniture and Decoration

Possession of furniture is a sign of money and taste and the index of furniture in a household naturally varies. Urban influence has recently been responsible for the richer villagers slowly come in for proper drawing room, bedroom and dining room furniture along with better type of houses. The average middle class families have not only a number of sleeping cots, but also some chairs, tables and a few wooden benches. Interior decoration is more of a casualty in most of the houses because of more lack of money than of taste. Gardening as a hobby has yet to percolate. It is a pity that even middle class people who can afford not to speak of the richer folks have not taken to gardening as a matter of course.

In the urban areas usually there is more of furniture in the household. With the small sized rooms that are coming in vogue, the furniture have to be simple but artistic. Heavy type furniture with ornamentations are going out. The slant is towards following the pattern of the furniture in the West. Interior decoration in the house of a rich man of taste in a town has slowly been coming in. Books are hardly possessed with pride.

Dress and Ornaments

There is nothing particularly different in dress and ornaments among the people in this district from those in Saran district which has had an exhaustive treatment in the re-written *Saran Gazetteer*.

The old costumes like *kurta*, *dhotti*, *payama*, coarse *sari*, *jhula*, etc., are still there in the villages but are being replaced with better type of *dhoti*, coat, shirt, trouser, bush shirt, *salwar*, *chaddar*, *dopatta*, etc. The use of shoes and chappals is normal for the town dwellers. Villagers are also taking more to the use of better type of shoes and *chamarua* shoes made of untanned hide are slowly disappearing. The use of cosmetics and other articles of toilet particularly for the ladies has come to stay and their popularity depends on taste, money and availability. Regarding ornaments, significant changes have come in their use for both men and women. A few decades back males used to have more ornaments for the finger, ear and the neck. But now male's ornaments are practically reduced to rings only. Women have given up many of the old type ornaments which were very heavy and ornate. The slant is towards ornaments of simpler design, lighter weight and there is more use of stone instead of gold and other expensive metal. The neck is the most favourite part of the body for the wearing of ornaments. Ornaments are used by the ladies for the neck, arms, wrist, fingers, waist and feet. As a rule no gold is worn on the feet. Gold, silver and precious stones are the chief ingredients. Glass, beads, etc., are also commonly used. Glass bangles and imitation jewels are very popular.

Food and Drink

The following quotation from the rewritten *District Gazetteer of Saran* applies to this district as well —

"The diet of the common man is very unbalanced and deficient in protein. This is partially due to habits and economic status. Rice, wheat, barley, maize, pulses and vegetables are the common food of the district. Rice and wheat are the staple food of the higher income group. The people of lower income group live on barley, maize, other cereals, pulses and *sattu*, a flour prepared from one or other of the various grains. Vegetables also form a main part of the food. The poorer class and the middle class families take more of vegetables and pulses with their main diet rice or *chapati*. Fish, meat, milk and eggs are relished but the price keeps them away from the table of the common man to a very great extent. Fruits do not form a common item of the dietary of the average middle class or even of the richer section. Fruits like mango and *litchi* are taken during the season provided they are cheap. But cheaper fruits like plantain and guava are not commonly taken. Sweet potato and *litti*, a cake formed of *sattu* and wheat flour with ingredients inside form a favourite menu of village common man. Milk and its various preparations such as curd, *ghee*, butter and *chhena* are more for the rich. Milk of

both cow and buffalo is taken. Goat milk is slowly coming into vogue in the towns and specially for children. Among the vegetables potato, *palwal*, lady's finger, pumpkin, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, bean, radish, bitters and various kinds of spinach are usually taken according to taste and price. Onion and garlic are now commonly used although they were little taken 20 years back. Salad consisting of slices of tomato, radish, onion and lemon juice, etc., has been introduced in the district recently and has spread to the villages. Although there has been no survey it may be said that the majority of the population are vegetarian probably more due to tradition and economic condition.

Vegetarian food has also a number of special varieties. Various kinds of sweet milk preparations are much relished. Various kinds of sweetmeat, *puri*, *kachauri*, dried fruits, pickles, snacks like *papar*, *tilauri* or *sukhauti* change the monotony of the ordinary vegetarian food. The culinary condiments generally used are turmeric, cuminseeds, pepper, ginger, cardamoms, cloves, coriander seeds, cinnamon, nutmeg, mace, cassia, cubeb, mustard, saffron, assfoetida, onion and garlic. The cooking medium is usually some kind of oil like mustard, hydrogenated oil (vegetable *ghee*) and *ghee*. Unfortunately, pure *ghee* is a rarity now.

There are various kinds of meat preparations current in the district. Most of them are of Moghlai types like *biriani*, *polao*, *kabab*, *kuima*, *murgmushallam*, etc. The restaurants are popularising meat preparations like cutlet, chop, roast, etc. Tea shops are found in every town and big villages. Tea drinking is becoming a common habit in the middle class families and in the group of people belonging to the class of the heavy workers like mechanics, drivers, and hard manual labourers. Tea shops are fast becoming the clearing house for gossips and rumours. Coffee has not yet become popular. Tea drinking is yet to become the common beverage of the lower income group villagers. Cold drink or *sarbat* in the summer season and specially on ceremonial occasions is common. *Lassi* made of curd is also becoming a popular drink in the summer season. Various kinds of aerated water more attractive for the colour have penetrated even into the villages. Cold drinks prepared with various kinds of seeds of flowers, rose petals, almond, black pepper, curd and sugar are in vogue in the richer class. *Bhang* is not a popular beverage. It is taken particularly in the *Holi*

festival. The higher excise revenue leads one to think that there is now more consumption of toddy and country made liquor. Smoking is also becoming quite common in spite of the increasing price of tobacco. Smoking among women is very common. *Biris* and cigarettes are slowly replacing *hukka* smoking. Smoking of cigar is not common. The chewing of *pan* with areca nut is very common and expenditure on it is not inconsiderable."

Amusements.

Songs and music have a great fascination for the rural people. *Bhajans* and *kirtans*, devotional songs with music have not lost their popularity. Apart from them there is a craze for particular types of songs with particular seasons like *Holi*, etc. The *melas* and fairs have a great impact on the rural population. Usually the *melas* and fairs provide a number of amusement centres such as *nautanki*, theatre parties, circus, cinema shows, etc. These amusement centres in the rural areas have a great influence on the sense of humour and the craving for amusement among the rural population. Many of the cinema hits could be heard sung by villagers.

Football matches and wrestling have a great hold on a rural public. In bigger villages as in towns there are theatrical parties during particular festivals like *Durga Puja*, or *Deepawali*.

The towns in the district have somewhat better facilities for amusement and recreation. Monghyr has got a number of cinema houses and some sort of exhibition or amusement centres practically remain there for at least six months in the year. The student population has very little contact with their teachers during the hours beyond the college study. The bulk of the student population fend for themselves in the afternoons and congregate near the tea-shops or the restaurants or visit cinema houses. Football matches and other games have a stronghold on them and their craze and interest could have been canalised to organise more of sports, cultural meetings, etc. The towns do not have adequate playing-grounds, parks or centres of cheap amusement and recreation. Cinemas are the big attraction in the towns now for amusement and recreation. Club life has yet to develop. Card games are popular.

It is a regrettable fact that there has been very little recreational use of the forests, lakes, springs and beauty spots in this district. It is rare to see week-end parties at Kharagpur lake. This lake area is well connected by roadways and anywhere in the West would have been visited by hundreds of the people during holidays and there would have been a string of hotels and restaurants. Very little use is also made of the few libraries in the district. Radios are very few. On the whole there is not much utilisation of leisure by proper relaxation.

Festivals

Festivals form part of the daily life of the Hindus and Muslims both in rural and urban areas. Monghyr wears a gala appearance during particular festivals. *Janmashtami*, *Shivaratri*, *Ramnawami*, *Tij*, *Durga Puja*, *Deepawali* and *Holi* are some of the festivals for the Hindus, and for the Muslims *Sabbarat*, *Ramzan*, *Id*, *Bakrid* and *Fatiha duaz dahum* are important.

ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND CLASSES IN RELATION TO SOCIAL LIFE

As mentioned before, the majority of the population of the district are agriculturists and even a sizeable percentage of the non agriculturists have something or other to do with agriculture. It is the agricultural economy which permeates the social life in the district and we may, in a way, say that the social life of the district is rooted in the villages. It is the rural pattern of life which largely rules the district and the present Welfare State has put the necessary accent on it by emphasising the importance of the agriculturists of our villages. To give an example, the political leaders five decades back were more or less urban with urbane manners and their political meetings were mostly held in the towns. They gave the leadership that was suited to the times. But with the change in the political set up and with the gradual evolution of self government and the ushering in of democracy, it was clearly appreciated that the leadership may remain in the hands of the urban people but they must win the support of the villagers. This is one great change that Mahatma Gandhi had brought to the country and Monghyr district along with the other districts in Bihar had the fullest impact of that teaching. The District Branch of the Indian National Congress gained popularity because the leaders toured throughout the villages at the critical period of organising the Congress movement in bullock carts, *ekkas*, boats and on foot. They lived with the people, they ate their food and they fully demonstrated that they were one with them as they were really so. The artificial gap which had been brought in by the western education between an English educated man and the villager was quickly obliterated. The average common man in the villages of Monghyr district realised that he also counted and probably with the realisation there has come in a certain amount of avoidable evil. At the moment, with the widening of franchise based on adult franchise, it is the agriculturists of the district that form the bulk of the electorate. No democratic set up of State administration could alienate the agriculturists now. That is the reason why the Congress Ministry have been trying their utmost to bring in welfare measures and land reforms so that the condition of the agriculturists is improved. A series of reforms that have been brought in are calculated to improve the economic condition of the cultivators *bataidars*, agricultural labourers and landless labourers. It is a different thing if some of the reforms have not achieved their

target. But, nevertheless, the objective is there. The village has again been put on the map and the trend is to improve the villages.

The apparent anomaly that the rural population forming the backbone did not supply the leadership in the past decades has now been removed. The zamindars with their power of purse and their contact with the British administrators naturally supplied the leadership. Next came the lawyers and other professionals who formed the brain trust in the district. The zamindars as a class cannot be run down because many of them in Monghyr district tried to discharge a part of their social obligations by starting schools, colleges, libraries and other cultural institutions. Many of them have endowed temples, mosques, trusts and other charitable institutions. But at the same time it must be said that it is the zamindars who had encouraged the various *abwabs* that the raiyats had to pay over and above their rent. The number of rent suits in any year was many times larger than the other types of civil suits. This alone shows that the zamindari as an institution was not very popular.

The abolition of zamindari came in the chain of a series of agrarian reforms. This move has a tremendous effect on Monghyr district particularly. This district has had a very large number of big landlords, many of whom were moneylenders, traders and professionals as well. The fact that it is this district alone in the State of Bihar so far that had sponsored a Life Insurance Company and a Bank many decades back (they went into liquidation) shows that there was money in the hands of the landlords and others. The abolition of zamindari has affected various strata of people. The landless labourers, agriculturists, service holders, lawyers and merchants have been affected directly or indirectly. The zamindars who were more or less a leisured class used to employ a vast number of retainers either from the landless labourers or from the middle class men as *gumasta*, *patwari*, *gorai*, *barahil*, etc. A very negligible percentage of them has been absorbed by the Government as most of them were not found quite fit for Government employment. They had become a pampered class who thrived on the miseries of raiyats. The lawyers lost a very good source of income and if lawyers are affected in a district of the type of Monghyr there could be no doubt that the other professional classes would also be affected. It is understood that the bullion merchants and the merchants of consumer goods are also visibly affected. Charity has suffered. No particular investigation has been done but a cursory enquiry from the local authorities elicits the fact that the large number of dancing girls and prostitutes of Monghyr and other towns in the district have also lost much of their income because of the abolition of zamindari. There is also no doubt that the abolition of zamindari has affected schools, colleges, art and music. A good number of musicians and singers used to get employment in the *darbars* of the big zamindars. Monghyr always used to send a large number of singers to Sonapur.

fair which collected annually the musical talents of the State. With the abolition of zamindari many of these persons have been thrown out of employment. The vacuum can only be filled by the State and it may be mentioned that the State as a Welfare State has been trying to fill up the gap. The State is financing schools, colleges, libraries, art and music centres. The private colleges that were started by the landlords are only now existing because of liberal help given either by the State or by the University which also is largely subsidised by the State.

The biggest impact of the abolition of zamindari has been a realignment and reassessment of the social values of the different strata of the population. The old type aristocracy with its peculiar idea of social value based mostly on casteism, length of purse and western education has to be liquidated. The process of liquidation has already started. Previously casteism did play a great role in the social life of the district. A so-called higher caste man whether he be educated, cultured or rich would expect and did command a natural leadership. A lower caste man, however, educated or well-mannered he may be, would have to be a back bencher in any social assembly. Unfortunately the higher caste people developed an unseemingly spirit of arrogance and complacency and so it is they who are feeling the result of the impact more keenly. The English educated men from the town of Monghyr used to visit the interior with a peculiar spirit of exclusiveness two or three decades back. A village boy sent to Monghyr or Patna for college education was almost lost to the family of ordinary common cultivator he belonged to. With the spread of communication and quicker locomotion that sense of prestige associated exclusively with the English educated men of the towns and the professionals had already started liquidating when the abolition of zamindari came in. At the moment there is no natural leadership for an English educated man with a long purse only because of his education or money.

The political turmoil and the mass consciousness that was aroused with the advent of the Non Co-operation Movement and the district of Monghyr was in the forefront in the fight for freedom in Bihar from 1920 onwards, brought about a great upheaval and the leaders of the Non Co-operation taught the common man to shed his fears and blind regard for the zamindars, the constituted authority and also indirectly to them in the long run as well. Apart from the Congress movement, the Kisan agitation had also helped the common man to come out of his cell. Then came the Second Great War and there was a peculiar circulation of money and overnight there was the emergence of the new caste of the rich. Many of the people who never counted before became suddenly rich through business, regular or irregular, and they fully utilised their money in buying up-lands, constructing houses, starting business, etc. This Second Great War brought in a big abandon in domestic life and society.

and many of the orthodox moorings of the society were visibly snapped

This phase was followed by quick changes in the political field and as mentioned separately, Monghyr district had played a very important role. The events in 1942 were followed in this district as well by a bitter communal outburst in 1946. Lakhanpur village was a sample of what men are capable of doing if they lose their senses in communal frenzy. Then came the declaration of Independence which brought in peculiar problems and the biggest change was the turnover of the Police State to a Welfare State. The accent has now been put on the development projects and very rightly the shift is towards the villages. It was clearly realised that the problems of the far flung villages can never be properly appreciated by the executive authorities sitting at the district or subdivisional headquarters miles away. That is why there was a concrete change in the character of administration by setting up a large number of Block Development Officers to cover the district and thereby the gap between a village and the district headquarters or the subdivisional headquarters is sought to be removed.

It has been mentioned elsewhere that the exclusive agricultural economy of the district has her own problems. The biggest problem is the ever increasing population. The agricultural economy of the district is coming to a saturation point and even agriculture has to be industrialised to keep pace with the changes. It has to be realised that there must be more of technical skill in agriculture and a certain amount of managerial skill which could be canalised into the system of co-operative farming. The ever-growing population is another problem. The growth of population must bring in a certain amount of wastage of human power. There has to be a regimented population and the current emphasis on birth control has not come in too soon. The Second Five Year Plan will bring in great changes in the district but if the population goes on multiplying at the present rate much of the good work will be undone. The food situation is bound to become much more acute in a decade unless there is a check on population.

Another great need of the district is the amelioration of the condition of the women folk in the villages. Even at the moment the Blocks mostly aim to bring about changes more for the direct good of the males than the females. Many of the Blocks have not even got a sprinkling of women on the staff who could more usefully take up the work of social education. The district lives in the villages and the best leadership in the villages could only come from the women who have got tradition and culture behind them and all that is required is the touch of literacy and education. Unfortunately there has been an extremely lopsided progress in the district so far as this aspect is concerned and the impact of an unenlightened women population cannot have a very good effect on the social life.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

LAND UTILISATION

The All-India Rural Credit Survey has published a monograph of Monghyr district in 1959. The Survey was based on field investigation and study of the main feature of the agricultural economy of the district.

The monograph quotes the following table on land utilisation in Monghyr district during 1951-52, the source being Indian Agricultural Statistics, 1951-52 —

Classification of area	Area (in acres)	Percentage to the total geographical area
Total geographical area according to Surveyor General of India	25,43,936	
Village papers	25,16,480	100.00
Forests	2,07,576	8.2
Not available for cultivation	4,24,677	16.9
Other uncultivated land excluding fallow lands	95,596	3.8
Current and other fallows	2,97,754	11.8
Net area sown	14,90,877	59.2
Area sown more than once	1,53,119	6.1
Total cropped area	16,43,996	

The monograph has the following comment —

“It is observed that about three fifths of the geographical area was sown, of which hardly about six per cent of the total geographical area was sown more than once. Area under other uncultivated lands and under fallows constituted about 4 per cent and 12 per cent of the total geographical area, respectively. Area not available for cultivation and area under forest was about 17 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, of the total geographical area.”

From the same source Indian Agricultural Statistics, 1951-52, the crop pattern in Monghyr district during 1951 52 was as follows -

Crop	Area under crop (acres)	Percentage of the area under this crop to the total cropped area
Rice	4,49,171	27.3
Maize	2,26,192	13.8
Wheat	1,42,758	8.7
Gram	2,60,104	15.8
Barley	43,924	2.7
Tur or Arhar	89,952	5.5
Other pulses	2,13,848	13.0
Other food crops	95,096	5.8
Sugarcane	13,652	0.8
Condiments and spices	19,437	1.2
Fruits and vegetables	56,456	3.4
Oilseeds	25,820	1.6
Other non food crops	7,586	0.5
Total	16,43,996	100.00

The following observation is quoted from the same monograph -

Gram is a crop of considerable importance in South Monghyr, especially in the belt of land bordering the Ganga between the river and the Kharagpur and Lakhisarai hills. It is grown to a lesser extent in North Monghyr. In 1951 52, about 260 thousand acres or about 16 per cent of the total cropped area was occupied by the gram.

Maize is no less an important crop in the district. It is regularly sown in *dhara* areas on the chance of the flood coming sufficiently late to allow of the crop being reaped, and also in low lying land liable to flood from the Ganga the Gandak and other rivers. In 1951 52, it occupied about 226 thousand acres or about 14 per cent of the total cropped area.

Wheat is cultivated largely in North Monghyr, particularly in Begusarai thana, on lands on which the annual incidence of the Ganga leaves a rich deposit of silt. In 1951-52, about 143 thousand acres or about 9 per cent of the total cropped area was under wheat."

The following statement from the *Bihar Statistical Hand book*, 1955 gives the classification of land during 1955 56 —

Classification of land	Area in acres
Total area of the district	25,16,000
1 Forest	1,62,000
2 Not available for cultivation	2,85,000
3 Other uncultivated land excluding current fallow	2,59,000
4 Current fallow	4,07,000
5 Net area sown	12,16,000
6 <i>Bhadau</i> crops	1,84,000
7 <i>Aghani</i> crops	4,46,000
8 <i>Rabi</i> crops	7,35,000
9 Fruits	13,000
10 Potatoes	4,000
11 Vegetables including root crops	56,000
12 Total area sown	14 38,000
13 Area sown more than once	1,90,000

Thus, in 1956 57 of the total area of the district about 49 per cent are under cultivation, about 13 per cent under not available for cultivation, about 12 per cent under uncultivated land excluding current fallow, 7 per cent under forest and 18 per cent under current fallow

It is appreciated that the conclusions from the figures at a gap of only five years at places look rather peculiar. For example, according to 1951 52 figures of net area sown represent 59.2 per cent as against 49 per cent from the figures of 1955 56. The area under forest from 1951 52 figures comes to 8.2 per cent of the total geographical area while the figures of 1955 56 make it 7 per cent. It has to be recollected that the present machinery for actual compilation of the statistics in the field is not perfect and eye-estimate of only a certain percentage of lands of the particular category still forms the basis of such statistics. Later detailed discussion as to the utilisation of lands has been given. In course of the discussion it will be seen that observations have been made that 72 per cent of the land has been put under cultivation including orchards and current fallow. From the way the statistics are compiled and made available it will not be possible to stick to any firm conclusion but the general trends are obvious.

In a closely cropped district like Monghyr there is not much scope for reclamation of waste lands. Even *chauris* (water logged area) and lands even beyond the level of marginal utility have been put under the plough. Lands covered with small shrubs have been cultivated

The small reclamation that is being done is with ordinary plough and other agricultural implements. There is practically no field for reclamation of waste lands by tractors unless marginal forest lands are taken up. There has not been much headway in reclamation and the figures are negligible.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation plays a very important role in agriculture. It is often said that agriculture is a gamble in the hand of monsoon. This is only because of inadequate and insecured irrigational facilities. It is also a fact that the crop harvest can be raised from 20 to 30 per cent through secured irrigation. From the figures it is clear that very little area is under secured irrigation.

There are several types of irrigational schemes like major, medium and minor. This district according to its soil and situation can be divided into two main parts for the feasibility of the irrigational schemes.

In North Monghyr only tube wells, surface percolation wells, *rahat* pumps, electric and diesel pumps are some of the sources through which irrigation is possible. Irrigation is not common in low lying area of North Monghyr.

In South Monghyr irrigation is practised in larger area than North Monghyr and the main sources of irrigation are canal, surface percolation wells, *rahat* pump and electric and diesel pumps.

The percentage of the net cropped area in South Monghyr irrigated from these sources is as follows —

	Per cent
Thana Monghyr	20
Thana Jamalpur	25
Thana Kharagpur	22
Thana Surajgarha	38
Thana Lakhisarai	40
Thana Sheikhupura	25
Thana Sikandra	45
Thana Jamui	30
Thana Chakri	10

Very little irrigation is possible in hilly region of the district. The only source of irrigating the hilly region is water reservoirs which is a costly affair and can only be done through the Governmental agencies or through the help of Government. A good deal of rice is grown in the beds of hill streamlets and their bed beneath the embankments levelled into fields which continue one below the other like the steps of a stairway, down the whole length of the stream till it reaches the main stream or sterile soil which cannot be cultivated.

Some of the reservoirs found in the hilly region are very large and supply water for big area, but a good deal of cutting is required in order to provide channels leading from the bed of the stream in which water originally collected. This is not possible by the cultivators as a considerable outlay is involved. Some of the medium schemes in Jamui and Sadar subdivisions have been done by the Department of Agriculture and they have become a good source of water supply.

Kharagpur Reservoir

The only large irrigation work in the district consists of a reservoir in the Kharagpur and which was constructed about fifty years ago by Maharaja of Darbhanga. About two miles south west of Kharagpur, the river Man runs through a gorge between two steep hills and at the narrowest point of the gorge there is an outcrop of rock across the river bed. This was taken advantage of as a natural foundation on which a great dam has been raised, the length of which is 725 feet and 20 feet wide on the top. Height of dam is 76 feet and the storage capacity of the reservoir is 10,200 acres feet. The construction of the lake was taken in the year 1870 and was completed in the year 1877 with an expenditure of Rs 6,84,916.

The following account of the capacity of the reservoir is condensed from the statistical account. The area of the catchment basin is 36 square miles and the area of the reservoir at the level of the hill is 17 square miles. The capacity of the reservoir is 10,200 acres feet as mentioned above which is meant for irrigation.

The area of the land to be irrigated was fixed originally at 26,240 standard *bighas*, but ten years later the area under irrigation from the water of the reservoirs and the springs was 47,500 *bighas* after allowing for the share of Banaili Raj. Now the water is distributed by means of irrigation channels over about 18,000 acres. The main irrigation channels consist of the Rahmatpur, Parsanda and Bhusichik canals on the north of the river Man and the Muzaffargarh, Kathintia and Buhara branch canal on the south.

Sources of water supply served by those of—

	No	and area	
(a) Canals	41,288 acres	(private source)	
(b) Tanks	16,226 acres	From Season and Crop Report of 1953-54	
(c) Wells	19,025 acres	Ditto	
(d) Water reservoirs or Aharis or other re sources	2,00,523 acres	Ditto	

2,77,002 acres



Achievement of Irrigation Schemes done by the Agriculture Department in the First Five-Year Plan.

The following were the irrigational schemes done in the district by the Department of Agriculture in First Five-Year Plan :—

- (1) Medium Irrigation Schemes.
- (2) Minor Irrigation Schemes.
- (3) Surface Percolation Wells
- (4) Open Boring.
- (5) Tube-wells.
- (6) Lift Engine and Pumps.
- (7) Rahat and Pump

These schemes had been much advantageous due to large area benefited by them which can be had from the statement below :—

Year.	Allotment in rupees	Target.	Achieve- ment	Expenditure incurred in rupees	Estimated area benefited in acre ²
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.			Rs. a. p.	
MEDIUM IRRIGATION SCHEMES					
1951-52	2,12,907	12	9	2,09,905 0 0	25,020
1952-53	1,38,000	10	7	1,37,587 0 0	86,000
1953-54	50,000	10	5	47,697 8 0	4,998
1954-55	97,822	10	4	97,792 4 3	7,092
1955-56	1,65,000	8	0	1,62,603 6 0	8,472
Total	6,63,729	50	31	6,55,585 2 3	1,31,572
MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES					
1951-52	48,000	25	30	33,394 11 0	3,000
1952-53	86,000	90	60	85,629 7 0	6,000
1953-54	1,00,000	60	44	99,907 0 0	4,400
1954-55	1,20,000	90	63	09,536 7 6	6,300
1955-56	2,00,000	100	122	1,99,958 1 3	12,200
Total	5,54,000	365	319	5,18,425 10 9	31,000

Year	Allotment in rupees	Target	Achieve- ment	Expenditure incurred in rupees	Estimated area benefited in acres
1	2	3	4	5	6
SURFACE PERCOLATION WELLS					
	Rs			Rs. a. p.	
1951 52	.. 2,03,688	260	253	2,03,687 13 6	2,118
1952 53	.. 49,982	300	125	48 060 15 9	750
1953 54	.. 18,706	133	63	13 669 13 9	403
1954 55	.. 1,27,850	500	303	1,27,849 3 0	1,848
1955 56	.. 2,83,000	500	739	2,84,443 0 0	4,434
Total	.. 0,00,226	1,793	1,593	6 83,729 4 9	0,558
OPEN BORING					
1951 52	.. 26,500	225	113	21,407 2 0	2,034
1952 53	.. 5,750	100	50	6,326 1 6	900
1953 54	.. 5,750	47	46	5,750 0 0	823
1954 55	.. 12,000	50	84	11,714 0 0	1,512
1955 56	.. 29,000	150	152	26,913 12 9	2,718
Total	.. 79,000	672	444	72,141 0 3	7,987
TUBE WELL					
1951-52	.. Not available	5	1	Not available.	100
1952 53	..	2	.	..	..
1953 54	..	2	1	.	100
1954 55	..	2	..	.	..
1955 56	..	3	3	.	300
Total	..	14	5	..	500

LIFT ENGINES AND PUMPS

Year	No of pumping sets supplied to the cultivators				Area benefited in acres
	3 H P	5 H P	10 H P	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1951 52	77	9	91	193	48 250
1952 53	2	3	Nil	5	1 250
1953 54	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1954 55	Nil	7	Nil	7	1 750
1955 56	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	79	10	21	205	51 250

RAHATS AND PUMPS

Year	No sold	Area benefited
1951 52	24	144
1952 53	7	42
1953 54	6	36
1954 55	24	144
1955 56	30	120
Total	91	486

During the First Five Year Plan, Ajan River Scheme and Gidheshwari Canal Scheme were taken up and completed. The following, i.e., Kharagpur lake, Ganaili, Kundghat, Lower Kail Magi and Kaurihari Irrigation Schemes were also started in addition to the above completed schemes. The total outlay on the schemes is Rs 185.75 lakhs and it will irrigate about 1,15,850 acres on completion. The budget provision for the year 1956-57 was Rs 61.31 lakhs and area brought under irrigation was 45,200 acres. Morewa Reservoir Project at an estimated cost of Rs 40 lakhs was to be taken up and in 1956-57 Rs 15 lakhs was to be spent. On completion 10,000 acres will be irrigated from this scheme.

Hanumanpahar Dam across Budua located at Bhagalpur will also irrigate a part of Monghyr district on its completion

Name of the schemes	Budget Estimate	Area brought in 1956-57 in acres
	Rs	
1 Gidheshwari Pyne	2,00,000	
2 Anjan River	87,000	
3 Kharagpur Lake	8 62,000	
4 Ganaili Irrigation Scheme	40,000	
5 Kundghat Irrigation Scheme	1,42 000	
6 Lower Kail Scheme	25,00,000	
7 Magi Irrigation Scheme	10,00,000	
8 Kaurihari Irrigation Scheme	17 00,000	
Total	61,31 000	..
<i>New Scheme</i>		
Morewe Scheme	15,00,000	

Description of the Schemes

Gidheshwari Canal—The head work consists of a head regulator of span of 5 feet each, and 5 feet high, with shutter and regulating arrangements and also river protection works. This canal is about 15 miles long with 10 falls and crossings. Ten distributaries with herd sluice take off from this canal.

Anjan River Scheme—The scheme consists of 2 feet high concrete weir with 3 feet high shutter across the Anjan river. The length of this weir is 100 feet.

Kharagpur Lake Scheme—This scheme comprises of renovating the existing earthen dam and also remodelling the entire canal system. The storage capacity of the lake will be almost doubled and additional areas assured of guaranteed irrigation. The estimated cost is Rs 16 43 lakhs and 12,000 acres will be irrigated on completion.

Kundghat Scheme—The head work of Kundghat Scheme is situated about 12 miles south of Kail in Sikandra police-station. The present scheme has been prepared to bring the area under irrigation by a diversion concrete weir 120 feet long 2 feet 6 inches high with 3 feet high automatic collapsible steel shutter and a sluice of 15 feet length.

Lower Kiul Scheme—There exists Sharwandnadan *pyne* which takes off from Kiul river in Nabinagar village near Tali Pahar. This *pyne* has silted up badly and it has been found that re excavation of the *pyne* will not serve the purpose. Hence this scheme has been envisaged to revive the old scattered irrigational system in Lakhisarai.

Magi Reservoir Project—The project consists of construction of a reservoir 3 miles north-east of Jhajha on the Magi river in the district of Monghyr. The earthen dam across the river is about 5,900 feet in length and 50 feet in height and has a reservoir storage capacity of 8,300 acres.

Kaurihar Irrigation Scheme—This is an irrigational scheme over the rivers Nata, Baghol and Kaurihar in the districts of Monghyr and Gaya. The head work is situated about 20 miles south of Sheikhpura. Three weirs on rivers Nata, Baghol and Kaurihar will be constructed and the three rivers will be interlinked by channels.

Morewe Reservoir Project—The Morewe Reservoir Project consists of planning a storage reservoir on the Morewe river, 5 miles east of Kiul. An earthen dam 1,900 feet long and 80 feet high will be constructed across the river and the lake formed will have a capacity of about 15,000 acres.

It was proposed to increase the area under irrigation through Medium Irrigation Schemes, tube wells, wells, *rahat* and pump, open boring and electric pump in 1956-57.

The area irrigated in 1953-54 from all sources, i.e., canals, *ahars*, tanks, wells, and other sources in the district was 2.77 lakh acres. This means that up to 1953-54 only 19 per cent of the net cultivated area was irrigated in the district.

In the year 1956-57 12,000 acres additional area were irrigated and thereby an increase of food production by 300 tons was expected by the department concerned.

Medium Irrigation Schemes—It was proposed to construct Medium Irrigation Schemes on subsidised basis. A sum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs was provided in the plan for expenditure in the year 1956-57.

Installation of Tube wells—It was proposed to sink irrigation tube wells on subsidised basis. A sum of Rs. 0.12 lakh was provided in the plan for expenditure during 1956-57.

Surface Percolation Wells—It was proposed to construct surface percolation wells in the plan and some were constructed during 1956-57.

Rahat Pumps—To encourage cultivators to purchase *Rahat* Pumps for irrigation, it was proposed to distribute these Pumps.

to the cultivators on subsidised basis. A sum of Rs. 0.8 lakh was provided in the plan for expenditure during 1956-57.

Open Boring Scheme.—It was proposed to sink open boring wells on subsidised basis to augment the water-supply. A sum of Rs. 0.19 lakh was provided in the plan for expenditure during 1956-57.

Electric Pumps.—It was proposed to distribute electrically operated pumping sets on subsidised basis to the cultivators for the purpose of irrigation in the areas where no other irrigational facilities are available but electricity. A sum of Rs. 0.19 lakh was provided in the plan for expenditure during 1956-57.

Minor Irrigation (Revenue).

During the First Five-Year Plan a diesel generating station at Begusarai was erected to feed the tube-wells in the area. Power was also extended to several towns and villages by extension line from Biharshariff and Mokamelh.

During the Second Five-Year Plan there is a proposal to instal a power station at Barauni with an installed capacity of 31 MW and connected transmission lines.

hand at an estimated cost of Rs 2,75,92,249 benefiting an area of 3 83,462 acres

Name of scheme	Budget figure, 1956-57	Area to be benefited (in acres)
Rs		
<i>Spill over schemes</i>		
1 Embankment from Rosera to Nima	13,47,500	1,155
2 Embankment from Khagaria to Nima	5,00,000	53,178
3 Embankment from Rosera to Parihara	14,25,000	17,100
4 Embankment from Khagaria to Parihara	6,00,000	13,134
5 Protection of Khagaria town	1,10,000	250
6 Tear and Kintoria Chours	1,500	Nil
7 Tilrath Chour	13,940	W A
8 Shovri Bhowari Chour	15,000	W A
9 Sultana Nali Scheme	8,000	Nil
10 Embankment on Baruti	15,00,000	N A
11 Embankment on Balan	15,00,000	N A
Total	70,34,440	84,867

EMBANKMENTS

The most important embankments are those of the North Eastern Railway viz (1) the main line which runs along the south of the north Gangetic portion of the district, at an interval from the Ganga varying from about 12 miles to less than a mile and (2) a branch line called the Manshi Bhaptiahi section, which runs almost due north from Mansi and divides Gogri thana into two equal portions. Both the main line and its extension run along high embankments and there has been much controversy regarding their effects on the drainage of North Monghyr and its liability to flood. There is, however, a general consensus of opinion that the embankment of the main line is on the whole a blessing to the country in that it protects the area north of the line from the floods of the Ganga—an opinion which is supported by the evidence collected from raiyats by the Settlement Officers.

The case of the Mansi Bhaptiahi extension is more difficult. Its embankment runs straight across the natural drainage line of Gogri thana, and the sufficiency of the water way provided in it is a matter of life and death to the cultivators. By an unfortunate coincidence the two first years of its construction were marked by exceptional floods. In 1905 there were heavy local falls of rain, which laid the whole country under water and breached the earthwork of the line in many places. This experience was repeated in a more serious form in 1906 when the local floods were due to sub-Himalayan

rainfall. It was found on enquiry that the allowance of water-way was insufficient and a considerable increase had to be arranged for.

A small area in the west of the Teghra thana is protected by a Government embankment; and in the south and south-east of Begusarai town there is a large triangular area confined between the Ganga and the railway, the major portion of which is protected by the Gupta Bandh, though the existence of the railway embankment no doubt intensifies the effects of flood. The rectangular area in the south of thana Gogri lying between the railway and the river to the south of the Mansi and Maheshkhunt station is similarly protected to some extent by the Gogri *bandh*.

There are two small private embankments in some villages belonging to Babu Ram Bahadur Singh and in the Government estates of Dhanupra in the extreme north besides an embankment about four miles long constructed in Amosi village in the Khagaria thana during the year 1903. These zamindari embankments as Sir Hugh McPherson wrote in 1907, when he was Director of Land Records, "are a source of much difficulty to the District Officer. The greater portion of thana Gogri must, in my opinion, revert to the uncultivated condition in which it was seventy or one hundred years ago, unless the petty embankments are maintained in such a state of efficiency as will protect the country from injurious flood in ordinary years. They are useless in years of exceptional flood like 1905 or 1906, but they give the cultivators confidence and make cultivation possible in average year. When maintained at ordinary flood level, they do not, I think, seriously endanger the welfare of adjoining tracts. In the winter of 1907-08, about Rs. 20,000 was taken by the Bahadurpur, Shankarpur and Bakhtiyarpur estates of *pargana* Pharkia in the shape of land improvement loans, and spent on the repair of estate embankments. The expenditure of this money not only improved the efficiency of the embankments, but also afforded relief to the impoverished cultivators and labourers who had suffered so severely from the loss of crop and destruction of houses attending to the floods of 1905-06".

The following is an account of the principal embankments in the district :—

In the west of thana Teghra a Government embankment, called the Monghyr *bandh*, runs along the left bank of the Baya river from the district boundary to Barauni, and protects a large part of Teghra thana from inundation. Further east, its place is to some extent taken by the high road from Teghra to Begusarai.

South of the latter place is an old zamindari embankment which was strengthened and repaired after the floods of 1889 by the late Mr. Ashutosh Gupta, who was Sub-divisional Officer at Begusarai from 1889 to 1890.

consequently known as the Gupta Bandh. It is an embankment about 13 miles long, starting from near Gurihara and terminating on some high land near Saiyadpur below Samho, a large village south-east of Begusarai. This embankment gives partial protection to a large tract of country to the south of the present North Eastern Railway embankment. In 1891 a proposal was made that it should be raised and strengthened, which was negatived by Government. In 1894, the question of remodelling and maintaining the embankment was again raised and negatived, on the ground that the construction of marginal embankments blocks the spill and tends to raise the flood level and cause damage elsewhere. On the latter occasion it was decided, not to bring it under the Embankment Act, but that the zamindars might keep it in repair. It was accordingly, the custom for the Subdivisional Officer to issue notices upon the zamindars to keep it in repair. This experiment, however, was not altogether successful for the embankment was not properly maintained. Moreover, conditions were made worse and the danger of allowing it to fall into disrepair accentuated by the construction of the Bengal and North Western Railway line to the north (now the North Eastern Railway). This line was opened to traffic in March 1900.

It was found that its high embankment blocked the natural drainage of the country and prevented flood water escaping to the north and to make matters worse, a large number of habitations sprang up to the south of it, which were more or less dependent on the imperfect protection afforded by the Gupta Bandh. The villagers were, in fact, living as they would in a protected tract and cultivating the land as if it were properly protected whereas it was not. Their danger was realised when the embankment was breached in the floods of 1904. It was finally decided, in 1907, that Government should take over and maintain the embankment under the Bengal Embankment Act (II B C of 1882) and that it would be remodelled and raised 3½ feet above the high flood level of that year.

Further to the east is a short embankment about 7 miles long known as the Gogri embankment, running from north-west to south east at a distance of about half a mile from the bank of the Ganga. It was raised by the District Board to protect Gogri and a number of villages situated between the Bengal and North Western Railway line (now in North Eastern Railway), and the Gangi

An embankment at Gogri has existed from a very long time to protect the town of Gogri and the villages to the east and north but some years ago the southern portion of it was carried away by the river, and within it the old town of Gogri, as shown in the original survey maps. In 1899-1900 the remaining portion of the embankment was continued as a high raised road running south east past Gogri-Jamalpur to a mile from the river. The flood of 1901, however, breached the new earthwork in the dip where the embankment crossed what is known as the Ratan or Kanwa Kol channel, and it was at the same place that the embankment gave way in 1904.

New Retired Line to Gupta Embankment

The entire area of the subdivisional headquarters at Begusarai and other adjoining places are lowland and are liable to be inundated by the Ganga flood. The old Ganga Bandh served as a spur in warding off the flood water of the Ganga protected the town of Begusarai and its adjoining places for a long time. But it became ineffective when its south eastern portion was encroached by the Ganga water. Thus the necessity of constructing the New Retired Line to Gupta Bandh became imperative to make it more effective and to protect the area in question. This was constructed for the protection of Begusarai and other adjoining country from the Ganga floods. The capital cost of the embankment was Rs 93,886 only.

Gogri Narainpur Embankment

This embankment of about 27 miles was constructed along the left bank of the Ganga at an approximate cost of about Rs 22,00,000 for protection of the villages of Gogri and Parbatta thanas from the floods of the Ganga. The construction was completed in 1932.

A number of embankments, viz., (a) Gupta Lakshminia bandh, (b) Fafaut bandh, (c) Kasbi Rupnagar embankment, all in Begusarai subdivision and (d) Surajgarha embankment in Sadar subdivision have been constructed for protection purposes.

SOILS

The soils of the district are (1) heavy clay called *karail*, (2) clay called *kewal*, *karriya* or *kathauk*, (3) clayey loam called *dhusi kewal* or *phulaul*, (4) loam called *dhurs*, *dhursi*, *doras* or *balmat*, (5) sandy loam called *balsumbhni* and (6) sand or *bal*. The clay soils of the district are classified as follows—(a) *Kachhua kewal* is the typical clay soil of *chaui* or lowlands, which remain too long and too deep under water to admit of paddy cultivation. The soil, however, grows all sorts of *rabi* crops. Its colour is black. (b) *Karail* or *karari* is a black, tenacious rich soil also found in the *chaui*s, which

grows only *rabi* crops (c) *Dhusri* or *dhusri kewal* is a little lighter than *kacchua kewal* and grows both paddy and winter crops (d) *Gorki* is an extremely stiff soil suitable neither for paddy nor wheat or barley, which grows only *rahar*, gram, *kulthi*, etc. It has a mixed white and red colour (e) A brick red soil found near the hills, very stiff and impervious to water, rather poor, growing only *rahar*, gram, *kulthi*, etc., has no special local name

The usual loamy soil is *bhusni* or *dhusri* or *dhus*, a light rich soil suitable for crops. A sandy soil is known as *balsuni* or *balsumbhri*. It is not a rich soil, but will grow both *bhada* and *rabi* crops. *Dhus*, *balmat*, or *dora* is a *diara* soil containing about three fourths sand and one fourth clay, which yields only inferior *rabi* crops. Alkaline soils are known as *nouchhal* or *usar* when impregnated with saltpetre (potassium nitrate), as *reh*, when impregnated with sodium carbonate, used by washermen for washing clothes, and as *kharwa*, when apparently containing sodium sulphate. But there is a good deal of confusion about these names.

PRINCIPAL CROPS

The statement showing the areas under principal crops during 1955-56 as mentioned in the *Bihar Statistical Hand Book*, 1955, was as follows —

Classification	Acreage
1 Rice	4,05,000
2 Wheat	1,81,000
3 Gram	1,53,000
4 Barley	44,000
5 Maize	3,21,000
6 Masoor	14,000
7 Arhar	25,000
8 Khesari	46,000
9 Peas	15,000
10 Sugarcane	15,000
11 Potatoes	4,000
12 Tobacco	
13 Jute	
14 Chillies	7,000

Rice (*Oryza sativa*)—Rice is the most important cereal occupying the maximum acreage in the district, grown in both north and south Monghyr, the acreage in the latter being more than the former. In the South Monghyr it is mainly grown in the Kharagpur *pargana* to the east in the wide plain stretching from Jamui to Sheikhpura on the west, and on the alluvial land in the Sheikhpura *thana*. In North Monghyr winter rice is grown chiefly in the Gogri *thana*.

Bhadai rice, also called *sathi* rice because of the period between sowing and reaping is about 60 days, is cultivated mostly in the south of the district, ordinarily on high and somewhat poor land. Usually the transplanted crop is taken but in very limited areas broadcasting is also practised. The seeds are sown with the onset of monsoon usually by the middle of June. The seed rate used by the cultivators varies between 20 to 30 *seers* per *latha* but the introduction of Japanese method of cultivation has reduced the seed rate to 7 to 10 *seers*. After a month or so when the seedlings are ready for transplanting the fields are puddled and the seedlings transplanted. But the transplanting is fully dependent on the rainfall. Since 1954 some area has come under Japanese method of paddy cultivation and where such process is practised, application of ammonium sulphate and single superphosphate is done, the dose varying according to the type of soil. Line sowing is also strictly followed under third method and distance between plant to plant and row to row given is 10 inches or so. As both early medium and late *aman* varieties are grown, harvesting generally starts from the month of November and continues up to the end of December, which depends on the maturity of the varieties. It cannot be said that the Japanese method has become quite popular, mainly because it is expensive.

Harvesting is usually done by cutting the plants with a sickle and the harvested plant is collected in a heap and threshed by treading with bullocks. In South Monghyr the harvested paddy plants are usually tied into bundles and are threshed on the wooden planks. In the National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks the Japanese thresher locally known as 'Akshat Thresher' has been introduced which has minimised the time of threshing and is also facilitating threshing inside the rooms during the rough weather.

Rice straw, which is known as *pual* and *neban* is used in fodder and in thatching the roof.

Wheat (*Triticum vulgare*)—It occupies the important acreage amongst the cereals in *rabi*. It is grown extensively in the north of the Ganga in *diara* areas and in other pockets of Begusarai and Khagaria subdivisions. In the north the usual practice followed in its cultivation is wheat mixed with maize but fields with pure cultivation can also be seen extensively. In the north the inundation of the Ganga leaves a rich deposit of silt. In such areas the ordinarily heavy cost of cultivation of this crop is to a large extent avoided, and the cultivator is then able to bear with comparative equanimity the chances or loss through blight, to which this crop is particularly liable.

The sowing generally starts from the middle of October and continues up to the end of November. The usual practice in manuring is the application of farmyard manure but that too is not much prevalent. The soil is finely prepared and seed sown behind

the plough. The seed rate generally varies from 30 to 40 *seers* per *bigha*, but where mixed cropping practice is followed the seed rate is reduced to 20 *seers*.

After the sowing of seeds and germination very little care is taken, except one or two waterings, wherever possible. The harvesting starts from the month of March and continues up to April. The harvesting is done by cutting the plants with sickle. After the crop has been cut it is tied into bundles and carried to a central place and stocked. Threshing is generally done by treading with bullocks. The wheat is spread on a threshing floor, which is generally made of earth. The bullocks are driven round and round until the grain is separated from the chaff. The final separation of the grain from the *bhusa* or broken chaff is done by winnowing.

After winnowing, the grain is stored either loose or in bags in rooms. Sometimes it is stored in mud bins.

Maize (*Zea mays*)—Maize locally known as *bhutta* or *makai*, is one of the most important crops of this district specially in the north of the Ganga and it is consumed in enormous quantities by the people of this place, the green cobs as well as the fried grains are consumed with relish.

Two crops are raised in the district—the hot weather maize as well as the *Kharif* maize, that is the crop which is taken during the monsoon months. The hot weather maize is sown generally in the end of February or so in such places where irrigation facilities are available but the area under hot weather cultivation is very small. The cultivation of the *Kharif* crop is the usual practice and bumper harvests are taken in years of favourable climate.

With first shower of rain in May the land is ploughed and then prepared by three to four ploughings. The usual manuring is the farmyard manure. The seeds are sown broadcast. Line sowing is only prevalent in National Extension Service and Community Development Block areas. The seed rate is 8 to 10 *seers* per acre. The practice of weeding and hoeing are also in vogue. The abnormal rains or droughts during the seed setting period reduce the yield to a considerable extent.

If the crop is grown for green cobs, the cobs are harvested while they are green, the stalks are cut and fed to the cattle but when grown for seed the cobs are allowed to dry up in the field until they are fully ripe. The cobs are then harvested by breaking them off from the stalks, and are allowed to dry. This is usually done in cultivators' home where they can be carefully watched. When dry, the grains are not shelled from the cobs, the cobs are kept hanging in well ventilated rooms. The stalks left are tied in bundles for feed of the cattle. The harvesting usually continues up to the end of September.

The implement used for harvesting is the ordinary sickle. Numerous local varieties of the crop are grown but they are generally poor yielders. The improved variety under cultivation is Jaunpur released by the State Department of Agriculture. The grain of this variety is medium sized, white and heavy yielding. This variety when sown in the middle of June, are ready for harvest in the first week of September.

Rahar—*Rahar* or pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) is the most important pulse crop under cultivation in the district. The *dal* is most liked by the people and is consumed in enormous quantities. Moreover, the crop is very hardy and can thrive in any adverse climatic condition with little or almost no care. It is usually grown as a mixed crop with maize and the acreage under pure crop is almost negligible.

The lands where the pigeon pea is sown mixed with other crops are the same as that for the crop sown singly, when sown with maize the land is more especially prepared to suit the proper germination of the maize crop rather than that of the pigeon pea. The seeds of both the mixed crops are broadcast in the middle of June. After the harvest of the maize crop *rahar* is allowed to grow until it is fit to be harvested. The usual seed rate used by our cultivators varies between 6 to 8 *seers*, but when grown as mixed crop as is usually done the seed rate comes to 4 to 5 *seers*. No intercultural operation is given. The harvesting starts from the end of February and continues up to the end of April in case of very late varieties.

Vast areas under this crop can be seen in the different corners of the district. The yield per acre is very low due to the cultivation of low yielding local varieties and due to the occurrence of phyllody in which the plants turn sterile by transformation of floral parts into vegetable parts. This phenomenon is locally known as *banyhi*, in which case the reduction in yield comes down to almost 40 per cent in some fields.

When the plants are ripe the stalks are cut as near the ground as possible by means of sickles. They are then tied in bundles and then taken to the threshing floor and allowed to dry for a few days. The leaves and pods are then stripped off from the stems and heaped in pile. These are usually threshed by bullocks treading on them. Winnowing is necessary to separate the grain from pods and leaves. The leaves and broken pods are fed to the cattle while the stalks are used for roofing, basket making, fuel, etc.

Gram (*Cicer arietinum*)—*Gram* is the most important winter pulse crop grown here. Its *dal* is very popular and liked much by the people. The green gram plant locally known as *phangri* is consumed in enormous quantities during the months of January and February specially by the poor classes. It is mainly cultivated as a

diara crop. In the north of the Ganga one can find its cultivation as a mixed crop with wheat, barley and in some pockets with chillies too. The progressive cultivators grow it as a pure crop and get a bumper harvest but acreage under such cultivation is very small.

The land where gram is sown is not prepared so finely as that of wheat but where mixed cropping of wheat and gram is practised the land is prepared in such a way as to suit the former. The seed rate is 20 to 25 *seers*, which is usually sown broadcast. The manuring of the plot before sowing is not done. No intercultural operation is practised and no irrigation is given.

When the leaves of the crop begin to turn yellow and the plants begin to dry up the crop is ready for harvesting. Harvesting is done by cutting the plants with sickles and they are then taken to the threshing floor. The harvested plants are allowed to dry for a few days, and are then threshed by having the bullocks trodden on them as in the case of wheat.

Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)—Barley is mainly cultivated in North Monghyr. In the poorer lands of Gogri this, to some extent, takes the place of the more valuable spring crops which can be raised in other thanis.

MINOR LEGUMES

The following are the legumes which are grown throughout the district, but they are of minor importance in comparison to the other leguminous crops described previously. These are (i) sun hemp (*Crotalaria juncea*), (ii) lentil or masur (*Lens esculenta*), (iii) moong (*Phaseolus radiatus*), (iv) urid or black gram (*Phaseolus mungo*) and (v) *Thesari* (*Lathyrus sativus*), etc.

Sun hemp—The crop is grown here rather extensively for two purposes—(i) for getting fibres and (ii) for green manuring purposes that is, for renovating the soil. Cultivation for the fibre purposes is only limited in certain pockets of Begusarai and Khagaria subdivisions.

The land is ploughed with the first rains and the seed is sown as soon as the soil is moist enough for the proper germination of the seed. The amount of seed rate per acre is generally 30 to 40 *seers* whether grown for fibre or green manuring purposes.

When grown for green manuring, the crop when about 2 or 3 feet high, is run over by a heavy beam or plank in order to make it lie flat on the ground in the direction in which the ploughing will be done. The crop is then ploughed under by means of mould board plough. This operation is done while the plants are still succulent and while the ground is quite moist in order to ensure rapid decay of the crop.

When grown for fibre, the crop is sometimes harvested when in full bloom. In other cases, it is allowed to remain in the field until the fruits have developed or in some cases until the crop is dead ripe. Harvesting is done by cutting the plants as near the ground as possible by means of sickles. The cut plants are allowed to remain in the field exposed to the sun for two or three days until the leaves have shed. The stalks are then tied in bundles of convenient size and stacked for some days. The bundles are then placed in water about two feet deep, only the lower portions being covered. This is to allow the thicker portions more time for rotting. Later the whole bundles are immersed, weighted down, and left until the bark is separated from the stem. The plants are then taken out and dried, and the fibre is extracted by hand.

Masur.—Lentil or *masur* (*Lens esculenta*) is a winter crop and generally cultivated in poor lands. The bed for sowing of this crop is roughly prepared, two or three ploughings being considered sufficient. The seed is then sown broadcast at the rate of 10 to 15 *seers* per acre when sown alone. But when some mixed with such crops as barley and mustard the amount of seed is approximately half of the usual seed rate. Harvesting, threshing and winnowing is done as in the case of most *rabi* crops.

Mung.—*Mung* or green gram (*Phaseolus radiatus*) is cultivated for grain purposes as well as fodder crop during the rainy season as also utilised as a green-manure crop. The preparation of the fields is similar to that of the lentil. The seeds are usually sown broadcast and the amount of seed when sown alone is about 4 to 5 *seers* per acre.

The crop is harvested before it is fully ripe as there is a danger of the shattering of the dry pods. The plants are cut by means of sickles and removed to the threshing floor and dried. The grains are then threshed by means of bullocks, and cleaned by winnowing.

Urid.—*Urid* or *kalai* or black gram (*Phaseolus mungo*) is cultivated for grain purposes during the months between August and November and as a fodder crop during the rainy months (June–September). It is utilised as a green-manure crop also. The preparation of the land for sowing is similar to that for the *mung* crop. It consists of two or three ploughings at the commencement of the rains. Thorough preparation of the seed bed is not considered necessary as this tends to encourage excessive vegetative growth at the expense of seed development. The seeds are then sown broadcast at the beginning of the rains. When sown alone the seed rate for this crop varies from 4 to 6 *seers* per acre, but when sown as mixed crop the seed rate is very much less.

The harvesting is done in the usual way as in the case of *mung* crop.

Khesari.—*Khesari* (*Lathyrus sativus*) is cultivated both as a full *rabi* crop and also as a *paira* crop in the paddy fields in winter months in some pockets of the district. It is also used as a fodder crop. The preparation of the land for sowing is similar to that of *mung* and *kalai*. The seeds are then sown broadcast, the seed rate used varies from 18 to 20 seers per acre. When grown as a *paira* crop in paddy fields the seed rate is considerably reduced. Before the plants are fully ripe they are cut and removed to the threshing floor and stalked for about a week or so until they are dry. When dry, they are threshed by bullocks in the usual way and cleaned by winnowing.

OIL-SEEDS.

The oil-seed crops grown in the district are linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*), rape and mustard (*Brassica campestris* and *Brassica juncea*) and ground-nut or pea nut (*Arachis hypogaea*) and castor (*Ricinus communis*). The method of cultivation followed in the district is given below cropwise :—

Linseed.—Linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*), is a winter oil-seed crop, grown in this district mainly for the oil which the seed contains.

The land where linseed is grown is prepared in almost the same way as wheat lands are prepared. Land is ploughed for several times, followed by harrowing for removal of all weeds and trash. The usual method of sowing the seed consists of broadcasting or behind the plough. The seed rate used varies from 5 to 7 seers per acre. When grown as a mixed crop with wheat as is followed in some pockets the seed rate is considerably reduced.

Practically no care is taken after sowing. The crop becomes ready for harvesting by the middle of March. When ripe, the crop is harvested by sickles and then taken to the threshing floor where the seeds are beaten out and winnowed. The seeds are then ready for marketing.

Rai and *sarson*.—*Rai* (*Brassica juncea*) and *sarson* (*Brassica campestris*) are the two important species cultivated in this district in the north of the Ganga. They are both grown during the *rabi* season and usually sown mixed with other crops, such as wheat, gram or barley, but in certain pockets pure crop is also taken. The preparation of the land for the sowing of mustard crop is generally that for the crop with which it is associated but as this is also taken as a pure crop the seed-bed is finely prepared. The seed rate generally varies from 2 to 3 seers, but when grown as mixed crop the seed rate is considerably reduced. The seeds are sown in the month of October and the crop becomes ready for harvest during the months of January and February.

The plants are cut by hand with a sickle, dried in the sun and threshed. The yield goes up to 5 to 6 maunds per acre.

Castor—*Castor* (*Ricinus communis*) is another important *rabi* crop grown extensively in the district specially in the north of the Ganga. It is generally cultivated as a mixed crop with chilli but acreage under pure crop can also be seen. The method of preparation of the seed bed is the same as that for the crop with which it is associated. The seeds are sown usually in the month of August by dibbling method. Intercultural operations consist of only weeding and light hoeing.

The crop is ready for harvest during the months of February and March. The harvesting consists in picking the mature capsules (fruits) by hands. The picking usually continues for one or two months. The capsules are exposed to the sun and on drying the shells split open. If they do not open they are beaten until the seed separates from the shell. The seeds are then dried and stored until ready for sale. From the seeds the oil is extracted which is used extensively for medicinal purposes and as an illumination.

Ground nut—The acreage under ground nut (*Arachis hypogea*) is very small in spite of suitable soil and climatic condition existing here. It is grown as a *kharif* crop. The land prior to sowing is thoroughly ploughed 2 to 3 times and bed finely prepared.

The seeds are sown usually in lines behind the plough and fully covered with soil for fear of being eaten by birds, jackals and other animals. The seeds are sown after they have been shelled.

Intercultural operations consist of weeding and earthing up with soil during the flowering period.

The maturity of the crop is usually indicated by the yellowing and shedding of the lower leaves. Harvesting consists in digging up the pods with spade and carefully pulling up the plants by hand and separating the pods which are then dried.

Chilli—*Chilli* (*Capsicum annum*) locally known as *mirchar* is the important cash crop grown here. The district is proud of being the second greatest chilli producing district in the State, the first being Darbhanga. Green chillies are used extensively by the people and also sent outside the State and the dried chillies are consumed throughout the year by the people as well as sold to distant markets both inside and outside the State. Chilli is mostly grown in the north of the Ganga.

The seeds are sown in the months of July and August in the raised nursery beds and they are transplanted when the seedlings are one month old. Intercultural operations consist of only weeding and hoeing.

The harvesting of fruits usually starts from month of November and continues up to February by plucking the fruits by hand. The yield per acre varies from 100 to 150 maunds.

TOBACCO

The Begusarai and Khagaria subdivisions of Monghyr district are relatively very unimportant tobacco growing area of Bihar. The tobacco cultivation in these subdivisions is generally done in very small fragmented plots and principally around or near homesteads of individuals primarily for the consumption of the family members of the cultivators and very little tobacco is marketed except for the Bachhwara police station of Begusarai subdivision, and to a certain extent in certain areas of the Simri Bakhtiarpur police station of Khagaria subdivision where tobacco is grown for commercial purposes and is marketed outside the localities also.

Tobacco cultivation is a lengthy and difficult process and yet very interesting. It exacts much of labour and care. Cheap labour is essential for the cultivation of tobacco as machines cannot replace labour in the cultivation of tobacco. Fortunately this area abounds in cheap labour and woman labour is abundantly employed for sowing, planting and transplanting although not so profusely for curing or packing of the tobacco for marketing.

Principally one variety of tobacco—*Nicotiana tabacum*, commonly known as *deslu* tobacco is grown in this area in selected plots both for commercial purposes and for household consumption. The tobacco is generally utilised for the manufacture of *hookah* tobacco or is used as chewing tobacco.

Previously Virginia tobacco (superior quality of tobacco than *deslu* tobacco utilised in admixture when properly blended with imported tobacco for the manufacture of inferior quality of cigarettes) was grown in Bachhwara police station but due to the closing of the factory at Dalsinghsarai in the year 1951 owing to some labour trouble, people have left growing of this variety. Proper facilities assured and technical help extended this area may produce better quality of Virginia tobacco and even specialise in growing of *bird* tobacco.

Rich, sandy loam is the soil that is suitable for tobacco cultivation. Dew and sea breeze are very healthy to its growth. The distribution of rainfall is also very important. Certain showers of rainfall before the plots are made ready for sowing of seeds are necessary. Rainfall at the time when plants are very small in growth and before or immediately after transplantation is harmful. Irrigation of some sort or other to nourish the plants to full growth is essential. Methods of irrigation adopted here is, however, crude. Wells are dug near about certain plots and water is made to pass

through small channels made in the fields for irrigating the plants Tobacco being a rich crop exhausts the soil very easily Manuring is, therefore, essential Commercial manuring is not practised but cow dung is profusely used Unfortunately as the cow dung is also used for fuel sometimes the crops suffer for sufficient manuring Rotation of crop and keeping the plots fallow would have been very helpful for recouping the soil but is not generally practised as the cultivators are more eager for yearly return of crop than in getting the best crop from the yields cumulatively spread over years This also gives an insight into the rather callous attitude of the cultivators, which may be attributed to the poor standard of living of the average cultivators and the traditional attitude of leaving things to fate

Sufficient and proper supply of seedling will definitely help the cultivators in increasing cultivation of tobacco which sometimes suffer for sufficient supply of seeds in the neighbourhood specially in years when due to the untimely rain when seeds are sown the seeds are washed away or otherwise destroyed for any reason In some years certain pests commonly known in the locality as 'hudd' which grow at the root of the principal tobacco plants, hamper the growth of the plants and work devastatingly to the growth of the plants But no remedial measures are yet known to the cultivators against its development, except destroying the same from individual plants

Seedling starts early in October and extends to the far end of the month followed by transplanting, which is generally completed by the middle of November Then the plants are left to flourish and grow on As a principle the upper portion—the baby leaves of the plant—is chopped off for the remaining leaves to extend in dimensions which help also to gain weight in the leaves When the leaves mature, harvesting starts—generally from the middle of February to the middle of March Then comes at the rear the last but not the least—the process of curing upon which alone depends the quality of the "tobacco-in-the-making". Universally in this area curing is done in the air and so unmanufactured tobacco is called as 'Air-cured tobacco' The growers are also the curers, practically always After harvesting, plants are left in the field to dry up in the sun for about 7 days and then for further 7 days the plants are dried up in some open places in the air and nursed like 'a favourite child in the cradle' and reared up tenderly to the last process after completion of which tobacco is graded as per quality and used and packed securely with great craftsmanship in bales and packages and made ready for transport or warehousing Dew for two days of this period when the tobacco is cured is very helpful Tobacco is very susceptible and sensitive to climatic changes Care is, therefore, taken in its packing, storage and transport Sometimes tobacco is sold in the green stage and is cured at a different place.

The following chart will illustrate the extent to which tobacco cultivation is done in this area and the number of cultivators or growers as also the people engaged in curing of tobacco :—

Serial no	Name of Central Excise Range.	No. of growers/curers engaged in tobacco cultivation	Acreage under tobacco cultivation	Total yield in lbs	Yield per acre in lbs	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Begusarai	34/34	15 03	18,949	1,184	(a)
2	Bakhti	23/23	3 72	3,685	921	
3	Bachhwara	544/547	141 55	1,89,420	1,334	
4	Khagaria	335/335	54 81	61,995	1,127	
TOTAL		933/939	206 01	2,74,058		

Crop year, 1951-52.

1	Begusarai	91/91	22 03	29,350	1,279	(a)
2	Bakhti	25/25	1 10	4,291	1,947	
3	Bachhwara	722/727	193 53	3,17,325	1,635	
4	Khagaria	271/271	52 28	68,231	1,312	
TOTAL		1,199/1,114	272 84	4,19,197		

SUGARCANE.

Sugarcane is a crop of little importance in North Monghyr. It is to some extent cultivated in South Monghyr, where it is of some importance to the north west and also round Sikandra. On the whole cultivation of sugarcane has not had wide areas.

OUTTURN OF THE CROPS

A statement from the *Bihar Statistical Hand Book*, 1955, showing the outturn of principal crops (by crop-cutting experiment and eye estimation) for 1955-56 is given below —

	Tons
1. Rice (autumn and winter)	125,000
2. Wheat	58,000
3. Gram	26,000

(a) Figures shown under column 3 only show the assessable curers excluding the garden cultivators who produce tobacco for household consumption which is not subjected to Central Excise Duty

	Tons
4 Barley	15 000
5 Maize	24 000
6 Masoori	3 000
7 Arhar	5 000
8 Khesari	5 000
9 Peas	3 000
10 Sugarcane	34 000
11 Potatoes	3 000
12 Chillies	3 000

HORTICULTURE

The notable features in horticulture which comprise fruits, vegetables and flowers are many and varied in the district. The total acreage under fruits is about 19 433 0 acres which is mainly commanded by mango *litchi*, guava, citrus (limes, lemons, oranges, etc.) banana and other minor fruits.

The mango (*Mangifera indica*) commands the maximum acreage under fruits being nearly 15 000 acres which is more common in the north of the Ganga and along its southern bank. About 20 per cent of the existing acreage is under grafted varieties of early and mid season and late types viz. *Bombai*, *Malda* and *Fazli* etc., and remaining 80 per cent is being commanded by seedling and inferior types. The yield of mango is very uncertain partly due to no measures being taken by our orchardists against irregular and alternate bearing rhythm to which this crop is subjected to and partly due to the attack of serious pests viz. mango hoppers (*Indiocerus clypealis* Leth and *Indiocerus altinsoni* Leth) locally known as *madhua* and mealy bugs (*Drosicha mangiferae* green) locally known as *dahua* and ultimately due to the utter neglect of the orchards. Another pest which has been very recently found out is the Shoot Galls (*Asylla cistellata* Buchton) more common in North Monghyr.

Attempts are being made in the National Extension Service Blocks for planting new orchards mainly under grafted varieties and renovating the old and uneconomic mango orchards by judicious manuring which will cure the irregular and alternate bearing rhythm and by spraying different pesticides against pests during the flowering period and lastly by adopting other improved cultural practices such as irrigation, weeding etc.

The next important fruit to mention here is *litchi* (*Nephelium litchi*) of many varieties which occupies mainly on the north of the Ganga and along her southern bank but the plantation gradually becomes thinner as one proceeds to the south and practically nil at the extreme south. The guava (*Psidium guajava*) belt is situated on the north of the Ganga where the market is over flooded with fruits during the peak season and in the southern side the acreage is

not much except in certain pockets of Sadar subdivision. Among the citrus type the most common are the limes and the lemons mostly grown on the north of the Ganga. The other citrus types grown are the oranges and pomelos whose acreage is very negligible and the fruits are of inferior quality. The banana (*Musa sapientum*) is purely found on the north of the Ganga and in the southern side they do not perform well except in certain pockets of Sadar subdivision. The jack fruit or *kathal* (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) is very common in Jammu subdivision and in certain pockets of Sadar subdivision too. The papaya or *papita* (*Carica papaya*) is also grown throughout the district. The custard apple (*Anona squamata*) locally known as *sharifa* is grown in the hilly and sub hilly areas of the south. The *mahua* (*Basia latifolia*) occupies extensive areas as forests in Jammu subdivision. The coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) is found on the north of the Ganga where cultivation of arecanuts or betel nuts (*Areca catechu*) has been introduced.

In the year 1956 cashewnut or *kaju* (*Anacardium occidentale*) has been introduced in the district mainly in block areas and drive for its plantation has brought a total area of nearly 35 acres under this fruit.

The vegetables command nearly 24 000 acres in the district including the root crops. The important vegetable growing tracts are Monghyr, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Jamalpur, Begusarai and Khatgaria. The potato occupies nearly 4 000 acres. The other winter season vegetables extensively grown in the district are onion, cauliflower, cabbage, brinjal, tomato, radish, carrot, turnip and spinach (*palak sag*). Lettuce and knolkhol have been introduced in Begusarai and Khatgaria subdivisions but it will take some time to be popular amongst the public. The hot weather and rainy season vegetables are grown in abundance in every nook and corner of the district specially in pockets where surface percolation wells have been sunk by the Agriculture Department. The most common amongst them are the different cucurbits such as bottle-gourd (*laddu*), bitter-gourd (*larela*), sponge gourd (*parol*), ridge gourd (*ghungli*), pumpkin (*kohia* or *ladma*) and cucumber etc. The other vegetables which can be seen in the market are the brinjal, lady's finger (*ramtorai* or *blundi*), *parbal* (*Trichosanthes dioica*) and different *sals* (spinachs).

The sweet melon or *kharbuja* grows luxuriantly on the sandy *diaras* bordering the Ganga and the water melon (*tarbuja*) is equally common. The water melon of Lakhisarai commands reputation and has wide local markets.

In the horticultural development programme of Community Development and National Extension Service Blocks growing of vegetables and fruits for self-consumption and marketing has been emphasised and under this plan a family consisting of five members will grow sufficient vegetables and fruits by utilising its spare time.

and spare plot and get a continuous supply of the same throughout the whole year. During the last few years a considerable area has come under the commercial plantation of fruits and vegetables also where facilities for irrigation, marketing were available.

The floricultural aspect of the district also needs a mention. It is one of the oldest rose growing area in the whole State which can be seen in many public and private gardens in Monghyr, Begusar and Jamui. The other winter season flowers that beautify the gardens and public residences are the hollyhocks, the sweet peas, dahlias, calendula, aster, phlox, etc. An annual flower show is held since 1955 in order to promote a healthy spirit of rivalry among the growers. Roses and other expensive flowers are getting rarer now.

The hot weather and rainy season flowers grown here that attract a flower lover are the different types of balsams, cosmos, canna, celosia and marigold. Monghyr town has a few parts with good trees, plants and shrubs and mostly seasonal flowers are grown. The *Rais* element being on the decline, good gardens in private compounds have become a rarity now. Jamalpur has some good but small private gardens in the railway colony. Gardening as a hobby is on the decline.

The avenue and shade trees that are come across on the road sides and at parks etc., include the sisu (*Albizia lebbek*), *chhatim* (*Alstonia scholaris*), the margosa or the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), the teak or saigon (*Tectona grandis*), the sal (*Shorea robusta*) and deodar (*Polvathia longifolia*). The flowering avenue plantations consist of gold mohar (*Poinciana regia*), asoka (*Saraca indica*), different species of cassias, jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosaeifolia*) etc. Arboriculture is not receiving much attention.

EXTENSION OF CULTIVATION

The normal cultivated area is roughly 72 per cent of the total area of the district, but the possibility of any considerable extension of cultivation is limited by the fact that in the south of the Ganga a large tract consists of hills, while in north of the river there is a large area of swamp in Gogri thana. There is ample evidence of the extension of cultivation both in the north and south of the district. Fifty years ago the Collector reported: 'There appears little doubt that so great is the demand for land that a good deal of land which ten years ago was considered not worth cultivation, has during the past two or three years been broken up. I may mention the broad belt of land adjoining the Kharagpur hills west of Kharagpur road, and a very considerable area to the north west of Pharkiya and throughout the central parts of that pargana. The jungle lands conspicuous in the survey maps in Pharkiya, are now very generally studded with fields of corn. The advance made in pargana Pharkiya or Kharagpur during the eighty years which have elapsed since the revenue survey may be gathered from the fact that only

35 per cent of its area was then cultivated, while now 72 per cent is under cultivation. Much of the land under village has only recently been reclaimed, and more might be reclaimed were it not for the liability of this tract to flood owing to constructions of several embankments.

In South Monghyr the construction of the Kharagpur reservoir and a large number of minor and medium schemes and wells have resulted in a considerable extension of cultivation in the north-east, and in the north-west practically all culturable land has been taken up except at the foot of the hills. Much of the waste in this latter tract has been cleared within the last eighty years to judge from the revenue maps, but the process of clearing has now apparently well nigh reached its limits.

In the south there is a good deal of jungle and waste land and the area under cultivation is extending every year by reclamation of waste lands and by provision of extension of different kinds of irrigation works e.g., wells, tube wells, lift irrigation tanks, *bandhs*, dams on rivers, etc. Thus there is a definite extension towards irrigation work and in course of a few years it is expected that 75 per cent of the total area under cultivation will receive irrigation.

IMPROVEMENTS IN CULTIVATION

Iron roller sugarcane mills have come into favour. Formerly the cane was squeezed by being passed between two revolving wooden cylinders but the pressure thus obtained was weak and uneven, and the operation had to be repeated several times and even then the juice was not wholly extracted. This indigenous mill has been superseded by one of iron, by means of which not only is the work done much more expeditiously, but far less juice is left in the cane. The new machine has come into use everywhere, and the raucous creaking of the old wooden mills, once so characteristic of the early spring, is now no more to be heard. The value of catch crops is well understood, i.e., of crops taken of the lands between the crops of an ordinary rotation when otherwise the land would remain fallow. As an example, of such catch crops may be mentioned, *khesari*, which is grown broadcast in the rice fields. In this case a double advantage is reaped. There is the additional crop of straw and grain, and *khesari* being a leguminous crop, increases the store of nitrogen, i.e., it adds some plant food to the soil. Gram is similarly sown in rice fields after the paddy has been harvested. With the exception of rice, few of the crops are grown singly. The common mixed crops grown are mixtures of wheat and gram or barley and gram or linseed and gram and so on.

There has been a great advancement in the different kinds of implements used. Improved implements, such as use of Bihar implements like Bihar plough, Bihar cultivation and Bihar ridging ploughs are commonly used by good cultivators for doing different

kinds of field operation, e.g., ploughing, earthing and hoeing. The big cultivators are gradually becoming more conscious of mechanised cultivation and there is a great demand for tractors now from people who have consolidated blocks of land. There are approximately 100 tractors in the district now doing cultivation work. Tractor owners also hire out their tractors to others. But at present there is a small number of firms for repair of tractors and the spare parts are not easily available. Mechanised farming has a future only when there are big blocks of cultivable land either belonging to individual cultivators or co-operative farmers.

Cultivators have now realised the use of improved seeds. Large quantities of such seeds are made available to them and they are encouraged to grow better seeds under seed multiplying scheme. The Agriculture Department give the cultivators good seed and buy back a certain amount after they have grown the crops. The advantages of better manuring is also appreciated. Some details have been given later. Improved varieties of sugarcane are replacing the indigenous varieties formerly grown.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINES.

In addition to indigenous implements that are used in performing different types of agricultural operations, there are several other improved implements which are used in performing the operations now-a-days.

They are as follows :—

Bihar Ridger—This is not very common in this district, but in hilly region of Jamui subdivision and Sadar subdivision this implement is in use to some extent

Jap Weeder—This is very popular in this district, where paddy cultivation is done, particularly it is used for weeding and hoeing in line sown paddy field

Chaff Cutter—This implement is used for chaffing the dry or wet fodder to feed the animals. It is available with all the cultivators who have more animals

Maize Sheller—This implement is used for threshing the maize crops, only available with the big cultivators of maize growing tract, but it is being popular with the common cultivators

Seed Drill—It is used for sowing the seeds in lines. By this implement more than one or two rows can be sown as the case may be. This depends upon the adjustment of the coulter, quantity of seeds can also be economised by this implement

In addition to the above implements scraper bund former, wet land puddler are some of the unproved implements which are also used but in a very limited area of the district

Deshi plough, *phauara*, *kudali*, *khurpi*, *yoke* with other adjustments *patela* being some of the old implements are widely in use in the district

The approximate price of the implements used in the district is as follows—

(1) Mould Board Plough (Bihar)	Rs 20 to Rs 26 per plough
(2) Deshi Plough	Rs 10
(3) Bihar Cultivator	Rs 30 to Rs 42
(4) Bihar Ridger	Rs 40
(5) Ordinary Seed Drill	Rs 75 to Rs 80
(6) Jap Paddy Weeder	Rs 15
(7) Chaff Cutter	Rs 150 to Rs 200
(8) Maize Sheller (Land drive)	Rs 30
(9) Phauara	Rs 5
(10) Kudali	Rs 5
(11) Khurpi	Rs 2 8 0
(12) Patela	Rs 5

Facilities for Repair and Replacements

There is no firm in this district which can supply the improved implements, but purchase could be made from Patna or Muzaffarpur.

Agricultural tractor and pumping sets are the only machines which are utilised for ploughing and irrigation. The tractor is very useful for those who have at least 50 acres or more land at their disposal and at a consolidated place.

There is a scheme of Agriculture Department like tractor loaning scheme in which the tractor is given to the cultivators for ploughing their fields on loan. Pumping sets are very useful to small cultivators also.

The comparative figures of agricultural implements and machinery of 1945 and 1956 are given below :—

Name.	Number.	
	1945.	1956.
Wooden ploughs	1,29,505	1,60,082
Iron ploughs	1,049	2,436
Tractors	40	81
Carts	24,594	31,322
Oil Engines with pumps for irrigation purposes.	..	155
Electric pumps for irrigation purposes	44	23
Sugarcane crushers—		
Power	55	188
Bullocks	1,467	1,505
Ghanis .. ..	..	2,530

SEED SUPPLY.

Proper and timely supply of seeds is one of the most important factors, which is directly associated with increased crop production. In the earlier days seeds were being distributed to the cultivators through some village merchants and seed merchants. There were also some rural development associations which used to supply seeds to the cultivators. But these organisations of seed supply were found both inadequate and ineffective to reach every cultivator. These systems of distribution of seeds are no more in vogue now.

Rapid development and improvement of the Department of Agriculture in this State, has changed the entire system of seed distribution which has taken a new shape. Supply of improved seeds is a necessary sequence of successful crop research. This is the final state in which the tiller of the soil is directly interested.

It is now a well known fact that improved seeds of crop plants give nearly 25 per cent better yield than the local one when grown under similar conditions.

Previously the recommended seeds of improved varieties were multiplied and supplied to the cultivators from the depot, farms and the demand was small and whatever were produced at the farms were sufficient to meet the demand. During World War II and post war period shortage of food necessitated launching the Grow More Food Campaign. The quickest and simplest way of increasing food production by at least 15 per cent was by extending the area under improved varieties and by replacing cultivation of low yielding local varieties.

Rice and wheat are the two most important major crops of this district. A scheme of multiplication and distribution of these crops started in 1944 as a Grow More Food Campaign. The scheme however, did not fare well due to the large disparity of price between prevailing market rate and Government controlled rate. The differences of price were not covered by the premium offered to the cultivators. The recovery of seeds was necessarily very low. The expenditure involved was not commensurate with the advantage derived. Loss in handling departmental stores was high. There was difficulty in maintaining strict control over the purity of seeds recovered from a large number of registered growers. The scheme was closed in 1951.

Available evidence shows that the decline in yield and quality potential is due to the improved seed gradually becoming a mixture lack of proper method of cultivation resulting in loss of vitality and consequent susceptibility to pests and diseases and absence of proper method of storage thereby impairing the efficiency in germination.

The desirability of a new approach to the problem was necessary because of the revised policy of the Agricultural Extension Service and Community Project areas and National Extension Service Blocks. A revised scheme has come into operation in April, 1952. According to the present scheme Research Stations provide nucleus seeds of improved varieties to departmental farms enough to replace the old farm stock once in three years. Pedigree seeds grown in departmental farms are supplied to 'A class' registered growers for multiplying in Community Project areas and National Extension Service Blocks.

It is essential that along with purity and quality of seeds the time factor of supply must also be taken into consideration. This can only be done if the seed is multiplied locally and purity is maintained. The local multiplication has to be done scientifically and process has to be a continuous one integrating the production of new and improved varieties at the Research Stations of the Agriculture Department with the general sowing of the cultivators in their fields which has to be achieved through a number of intermediate growers and seed producing farmers.

There are three farms in this district which supply seed. They are at Monghyr, Mallehpur and Kharan.

Monghyr Farm.—This is a 207 acre farm. The Botanical Sub-station of this district is situated in this area. Unfortunately there is no irrigational facility and hence no major crop is grown here. The farm, however, supplies gram, barley, *jowar*, maize, *arhar*, etc., of improved varieties.

Mallehpur Farm (Jamui).—This farm has 47 acres of land. Almost all the important varieties of paddy are multiplied here and supplied to various blocks of the district and also outside it. Besides, this farm grows wheat, sugarcane, gram and minor legumes, i.e., *khesari*, *kalai*, etc.

Khagaria Farm.—This farm has recently been opened and is quite a prosperous one. Main crop grown in this farm is wheat of all the varieties, gram and sugarcane.

MANURES.

Cow-dung, the droppings of sheep and goats and farm refuse are common manures. Cow-dung is very popular. As cow-dung is also used as fuel, there is a great dearth of manure. The cultivators are no longer allergic to use chemical and organic fertilizers. They are also becoming compost-minded.

In the rural areas the cultivators prepare their own compost. Cow-dung, farm refuse, etc., are collected in a pit and are allowed to decompose to form compost. The pits are opened after one year and the farm-yard manure thus prepared is taken to the field.

The outskirts of the urban areas are now being used by municipal bodies and notified area committees to prepare town compost out of the town sweeping and night soil. The apathy of the cultivators to use this type of manure is now being liquidated. Among the chemical manures ammonium sulphate, single superphosphate and bone-meal are widely used while the use of urea is still very limited. Oil-cakes are also widely used. Among the green manures only *sanai* is popular as the manure of paddy.

Regarding the use of different types of improved manures it may be mentioned that about four to five maunds of oil-cakes are used per acre for food crops and eight to ten maunds for sugarcane and potatoes. About one maund of sulphate is used per acre in the food crops. There is some apathy to use bone-meal manure.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

The cultivators from time immemorial are conscious of the beneficial effects of rotation of crops. Crops are generally sown in rotation but there are certain tracts especially in the *tal* and the *diara* areas where rotation is not strictly followed. In the *tal* area only *rabi* crops are grown. Crop rotations maintain or improve the fertility of the soil by supplying organic matters and nitrogen.

increase the yield of crop, improve the quality of crops and the physical condition of soil, help in the conservation of soil, control the incidence of diseases and pests and keep the land free from weeds and ensures constant employment of labour and live stock throughout the year. The crop rotation practice is generally followed by the cultivators in the district to ensure the desired yield of crops, though they do not understand the scientific principles underlying the rotation of crops. Some of the rotation of crops followed in the district are given below —

<i>Kharif</i>	<i>Rabi</i>
(i) Maize	Wheat, barley, mustard, gram, peas, etc
(ii) Late paddy	Pira, gram or <i>khesari</i>
(iii) Early paddy	Gram, <i>khesari</i> , peas, wheat, barley and onion
(iv) Jowar for fodder	Wheat or barley or wheat and mustard
(v) Fallow	Chilli, tobacco
(vi) Maize and <i>araha</i> r	<i>Arahar</i>
(vii) Maize	Potato
(viii) Maize	Sugarcane

In most of the parts of the district cultivators generally sow mixed crops as the seeds of the cultivators are diversified and most of them hold small holdings. The crops usually grown together are—

- (i) Maize, *araha*r and turmeric, (ii) maize and *moong*,
 (iii) wheat and gram, (iv) barley and gram, and
 (v) wheat and mustard

Rest is necessary for conserving the fertility of the fields. But as the holdings are small, the farmer does not willingly want to leave the land fallow for successive seasons. However, most fields get a period of rest in the gap between *rabi* and *kharif*.

The National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks have been spreading agricultural education to follow rotation of crops, use of legumes and chemical manures, etc., to improve the soil.

AGRICULTURAL DISEASE AND PEST

Growing crops are occasionally exposed to damage from an immense variety of pests and diseases. The major pests and diseases are described below —

Maize and Jowar Borer—It is major pest of maize and jowar, only young plants are attacked while the older ones are totally ignored. The attack starts from the middle of March and gradually increases till it is maximum in

the first week of August and continue to middle of September. The caterpillars start boring from the top and may enter through side holes also, but they may be found in stems even up to three inches from the ground and interfere with the circulation of sap and the plant withers.

Control measures.—(1) Field should be carefully examined for pest, after March onward.

(2) After harvesting, fields should be ploughed and stubbles and trash collected and burnt away.

(3) All dead hearts should be pulled out.

(4) Moths are attracted by light trap.

(5) Thinning of crops arrests spreading of pests.

(6) Dusting the crop with 5 per cent D. D. T. or with 5 per cent B. H. C. may reduce the insect attack.

Rice Gundhi Bug (*Leptocorisa yericorins*).—This is a common pest of rice. The bugs attack the ripening grains from middle of August to October and suck their milky juice with the result that the ears turn white and do not mature into grains. The affected seeds may show the marks of punctures due to a black fungus.

Milletts, jowar, maize, bajra, rai and marua are the secondary hosts.

Control.—(1) Bagging of insects and killing them in strong crude emulsion oil, would lead to their complete extermination.

(2) Irrigating the fields with crude emulsion oil or flooding them with water having within a film of kerosene oil is extremely beneficial.

(3) Putting up light traps would destroy them.

(4) Sowing of late paddy varieties may escape attack.

(5) Wild grasses should not be allowed to grow in the vicinity otherwise the insect will continue to live there.

(6) Dusting with 5 per cent B. H. C., at the rate of 20 lbs. per acre is very effective.

Gram Cuttwork.—It is a major pest of rabi crops and specially of gram. The attack is extremely serious during winter, when young seedlings' root and leaves are nibbled at night by the caterpillars, which drag them to their holes to be finished during the day. As many as 350 very small whitish eggs are laid down singly or in heaps on weeds, grasses, stems or surface of soil under the plants.

Control — (i) Hand picking is useful for a small area

(ii) Small heaps of poison baits, prepared by a paste of one maund *bhusa*, one seer arsenic, two seers *gur* with six gallons of water (efficient for 5 acres) should be placed in the field

(iii) Spray the young plants with lead arsenate

(iv) Fields should be often flooded moderately

Green Mustard Fly (*Aphis brassical*) — This pest attacks mustard, rape and cabbage and the sap rendering the attacked crop pale, weak and exhausted incapable of bearing any seed. Leaves are most susceptible and soon dry up

Control — (i) Growing of early maturing varieties has proved to be very useful

(ii) The sprays of crude oil emulsion, petroleum emulsion fish oil scrap and tobacco emulsion (its two parts of water) or nicotine sulphate solution, check the multiplication of insect in the early stages

(iii) Dusting of 5 per cent B H C with ash act as a nerve poison and kills all the insect

Red Rumphin Beetle (*Alacophora foveicollis*) — It is a serious pest of cucurbitaceous plants chiefly found in melon gourds, pumpkins, cucumber and others. The adults eat up the leaves especially of germinating young seedlings in March to April and kill them. They also attack fruits rendering them unfit for human consumption

Control — (i) The cucurbits should be sown earlier so that by the time the beetles resume activity after liberation, the creepers have grown considerably to resist the insect attack

(ii) Hand picking in the morning

(iii) When the seeds are germinating, the young cucurbits may be dusted with cow dung ashes in March and April with a little kerosene oil to act as repellent

(iv) Dusting the plants with one part of parish green or lead arsenate or sodium fluesilicite mixed with 16 parts of fine road dust or ashes, kills most of the insect but this should be done in the morning

(v) Dusting with 4 per cent D D T is also effective

Mango Leaf Hopper — It is a major pest of mango during flowering time. The juice of the young shoot and flower buds or entire inflorescence is sucked up. A characteristic fungus grows and the whole crop is lost

Control.—(i) The trees may be sprayed with resin wash or resin soap, kerosene or crude oil emulsion during winter before blossoms open.

(ii) Dusting the inflorescence and young shoots with weak mixture of sulphate and lime keeps away the pest. Two or three dustings at an interval of ten days kill most of the insects.

Mango White Bug (*Drosicha stebbingi*).—It is a pest of mango and damages young growing shoots by sucking cell sap. The attack is much more serious during spring when shoots are richly supplied with overflowing cell sap. They secrete a sugary material from their body, which falls upon the leaves and inflorescence causing a fungus to grow.

They have also been found attacking banyan, *pipal*, *gular*, fig, citrus, etc.

Control.—(i) The soil round trees should be dug deep after monsoons. This will destroy the eggs.

(ii) Grease or tar bands round the trunks of trees, at the end of October will prevent the nymphs from crawling up.

(iii) Spraying with resin compound is useful to kill the early stages of bug.

White Ants (Termites).—Termites cause a good deal of damage. The food of the termites is in large part of cellulose, which they obtain from living or dead vegetation, books and other articles of wood, fabric, flooring material, etc. Timber is completely tunnelled and consumed. It is generally found as a pest in the crops of sugarcane, groundnut, wheat, maize, etc., and causes great damage to them.

Control.—(i) 5 per cent B. H. C. at the rate of 25 per acre can control the insect.

(ii) 40 per cent Aldrin at the rate of 2½ lbs. per acre is the sure control of this insect.

(iii) Irrigation to the attacked field destroys the insects.

(iv) In case of sugarcane, the setts should be dropped in crude oil emulsion before planting.

(v) Before planting, field should be treated with B. H. C. or Aldrin or neem cake.

Store-Grain Pests.

Rice Weevil (*Sitophilus oryzae*).—It is a pest for paddy, all cereals and their products. It is common in every kind of grain store. The adult and the larvæ bore the grain and devour the cornmeal. The

husk of the seed only is left behind and the grain becomes useless for consumption and incapable for germination

Control — (i) Grain should be dried and stored in clean dry ventilated and brick-cement built granaries

(ii) If infection has started, the godown may be heated up to 150 degree for twelve hours and the grain should again be exposed to sun before storing

(iii) Fumigation of grain and granaries by 2 per cent to 5 per cent hydrocyanic acid gas for 18 hours or by carbon-disulphide is extremely useful

(iv) The bags should only be stored up to 80 per cent of the total height of the granaries

Potato Tubermoth — The larvæ eat the green tissues of the tuber, exposing it to bacterial and fungal infection. It is also found on the leaves of tobacco, tomato and some wild solanaceous plants

Coming into the godown with the harvested potatoes, the moth breeds rapidly

Control — (i) Fumigation of the stored tubers

(ii) Storage of tubers on 18 inches high racks (*machans*) under a layer of 2 inches to 3 inches thick dry sand in a cold dry place. No tubers should remain exposed or touched each other

(iii) Sowing seed potato at a depth of at least 4 inches keeping the tuber completely covered with earth

(iv) Prompt removal of crop in bag

(v) Prompt destruction of affected tubers

(vi) Proper ventilation of potato godown

(vii) Plants can be treated with 2 per cent D D T dust and uniformly covered with insecticides

Wheat Weevil (*Trogodemea granarium*) — It is a major pest of wheat. It is noteworthy that only superficial layers of the grain are attacked and the insects do not burrow into layers deeper than 6 inches to 12 inches. This pest occasionally attacks *jowar*, oat, rice, maize

Control — (i) The affected grams should be sorted out and should be treated adequately

(ii) Trapping by spreading gunny bags over the infested grains during the active season

(iii) The stores should be thoroughly cleaned before storing the grains

In addition to the abovenoted described pest there are some more pests though not less important when the attack becomes serious but

in normal condition they are not very serious in this district. Some of them are—

- (i) Grain and flour moth (*Sitotroga cerealella*).
- (ii) Pulse beetle (*Pachymerus chinensis*).
- (iii) Red cotton strainer.
- (iv) Cotton leaf roller.

Rust of wheat.—Three rusts are known to attack wheat, namely, black or stem rust, yellow rust, orange leaf rust.

Control.—(i) Improved strains of crops which are resistant or can tolerate the rust attack only be sown.

(ii) Destruction of alternate host is very necessary.

(iii) Seed treatment with Agrosen G. N. at the rate of 2 to 3 ounces per maund is a precautionary measure which should be practised before sowing.

(iv) Sun drying of the seeds before sowing is also beneficial.

Blight of potatoes.—There are two types of Blight, namely, Early Blight of Potatoes and Late Blight of Potatoes.

Climate and soil exert a controlling influence on the development of the disease. It becomes serious when the season begins with abundant moisture followed by high temperature unfavourable to the host plant.

Control.—(i) Crop rotation is one of the important items of the control of this disease.

(ii) Dead leaves, etc., should be raked together and burned immediately after harvest.

(iii) Timely and thorough spraying with bordeaux mixture effectively controls early blight. Weekly spraying must be given from time to time the plants are 6–8 inches high and continued throughout the period of their growth.

Tikka Disease of Groundnut.—A serious leaf spotting and defoliation of groundnut plants is rather common in many areas.

All parts of the plant above the soil level are attacked. The disease is disseminated by wind which blows the spores from leaf to leaf. Attacks in the new crops are apparently initiated by the spores which lie in the soil.

Control.—(i) Seed treatment has given clean crops, indicating that seed infection cannot entirely be ruled out.

(ii) Spraying with bordeaux mixture.

(iii) Beneficial results have also been obtained by good cultivation and proper rotation.

(iv) Early maturing varieties can also escape the attack.

Red-rot of Sugarcane.—Of all the diseases that affect sugarcane, red-rot is the most serious and destructive. It is widespread.

The fungus attacks all the parts above the ground level but specially the stem and mid rib of leaves. When the affected stems are split open, the tissues of the internodes, which are normally white or yellowish white, will be found to be longitudinally reddened in one or more internodes.

Control—(i) One of the principal methods of controlling red rot is to use healthy setts

(ii) Long rotation should be practised

(iii) The affected canes should be pulled out and burnt

(iv) Sowing of improved varieties, resistant to disease should be grown

Smuts of Wheat, Bailey, Sugarcane and Jowar—There are several types of smut, i.e., loose smut, covered smut etc., which are generally found attacking grains' ears and are very serious

Control—(i) The seed is soaked in water at a temperature of 26-30 degree C for four or five hours which induces the dormant mycelium to germinate. The seed is quickly transferred to warmer water at 54 degree C for ten minutes which helps in killing the germ

(ii) Immune or resistant varieties offer the best method of controlling loose smut

There are several other diseases like leaf curl of chillies, wilt of citrus, canker, etc., which are also found in this district. Leaf curl of chilli is very common in this district. It is a virus disease and the only control measure is spraying with bordeaux mixture 5-5-50 two to three times before the attack of disease.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR AND WAGES

Generally landless people who reside in villages offer themselves for agricultural labour. The cultivators who possess a large area of land require to engage labour for the agricultural operations. Small cultivators who own little land do not engage labour and they themselves do the agricultural work with the help of their family in their fields. There is no statutory obligation on agricultural labour.

There are two types of labourers engaged for agricultural operations—one is of permanent nature and the other is of casual work. The permanent labour is generally called as ploughmen or *haluaha*. These ploughmen are generally allotted some land by the owner in order to keep them permanently.

The job of the permanent type of man is to feed the cattle, to attend the ploughing of land, to cart the manures, seed and the harvested crop, to look to the drainage of the fields, sowing of crops and irrigating the land if required. They are generally paid a fixed pay per month, in addition to breakfast every morning.

The other type of labour, i.e., the casual labourers are only engaged during the sowing, transplanting, weeding and harvesting stages of agricultural operations. They are paid wages in kind or in cash according to the prevalent wage in the locality in addition to a breakfast. In general the agricultural wages do not exceed Rs. 1-4-0 per adult, but there is a different rate for females and children. The females get about one rupee a day and the children from six annas to twelve annas according to their age. Scarcity of agricultural labour at harvesting season is often felt.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES.

Live-stock and Pasturage.—The cattle of Monghyr district are of an inferior breed and are generally small and of poor quality. Healthier and fairly big-sized cattle are often found as one goes towards western side of the district bordering Patna. A vast field of cultivable land popularly known as 'Barahiya Tal' which is rich in *rabi* crop lies in this part. Big cultivators here keep well bred bullocks, amongst which many are of *hariana* breed.

There is good pasturage among the hills to the south during the rainy season and in pasturage grounds of Pharkiya, in the dry season, but elsewhere grazing lands are scarce. Even in the south of the district, jungles yield poor grazing during the dry season, and only those who can afford to send their animals to the north gangetic plains in *pargana* Pharkiya keep good stock. The area under fodder crops is negligible. But the State Government is active to improve the availability of fodder and grazing condition. There is a scheme of making of hay of *kans* grass and spearhead grass in forest areas. For experiment, development and demonstration of fodders, different exotic and indigenous grasses and legumes were tried under local conditions and seed roots as well as cuttings were distributed among the National Extension Service Blocks. But the scheme is in its initial stage and has not made much headway.

The existing fodder used may be classified as dry and green fodder. Under dry and green fodder come the following:—

- (i) *Dry fodder.*—(a) Cereals, origin-straws of paddy, *kodo*, *marua*, *kauni*, *china*, *jowar* and maize, etc., and (b) pulses, green *bhusa* of gram, *khesari*, cowpeas, *arhar*, *moth*, *kulthi*, *masur* and *urid*, etc.
- (ii) *Green fodder.*—(a) Maize, *jowar*, alone or mixed with *moth*, oats alone or mixed with peas, *khesari*, *khesari* alone or mixed with *akta* and *sosna*, green *sama*, *kauni*, *china*, *kulthi*, *urid*, *moong*, *masur* and creepers of potatoes and sweet potatoes, tops of sugarcane during its harvest season, carrots and bamboo leaves. Sweet potatoes are at times given to milch animals when prices are low.

The table below will show the comparative live-stock population of Monghyr district taken in the Live-stock Censuses of 1951 and 1956 :—

Name of the district.	Serial no.	Stock.	Number, 1951.	Number, 1956.
Monghyr	1	Total cattle	16,65,633	9,21,588
	2	Total buffaloes	1,69,366	1,87,817
	3	Total bovine	12,34,999	11,09,403
	4	Total sheep	19,567	21,096
	5	Total goats	3,66,950	3,62,600
	6	Total horses and ponies	8,316	7,218
	7	Total donkeys	664	715
	8	Total mules	29	147
	9	Total pigs	20,526	34,381
	10	Total camels	35	481
	11	Total livestock	16,45,026	15,36,043

In course of five years there had been a decrease of 1,08,983 heads of cattle or 6.6 per cent in the livestock population. The reason for decrease was partly due to the outbreak of epidemics which visited North Bihar every year after the Kosi ravages and partly owing to large slaughter of cattle in 1955-56. The *Livestock Census Report* (1956) does not discuss the reasons of decline in detail under total cattle.

Horses are scarce, good horses which were often found in the stables of larger zamindars are gradually decreasing in number as with the abolition of zamindari the fancy for keeping horses has disappeared. Even the ordinary ponies are not very numerous. There is no reason why camel population should have had an increase. Pigs are reared by Santhals and other lower labouring castes for their own consumption. The multiplication of goat population is a menace to cultivation. Omnivorous goats are kept by Goalas and other poor class people. They thrive on the *jungly* herbage and crops. The total number of live-stock population of Monghyr in 1951 was 16,45,026 as against 15,36,043 in 1956.

Development of cattle.—The development of the breed cattle and buffaloes is essential for agricultural purposes, milk products and to add to the agricultural prosperity. There has been a concentrated move on behalf of the State Government to tackle this problem. The All-India Key Village Scheme sponsored by Government of India is in operation in the district. The scheme aims at improving the

general efficiency of the cattle by adopting scientific methods of breeding, feeding, disease control and marketing. Selected bull-calves are reared in this key village for distribution after maturity for the purpose of upgrading. An intensive cattle breeding programme to produce superior bull-calves is in operation at Barbiglia and its suburb. Four hundred stud bulls have been distributed in the area falling under key village scheme.

In order to improve the breed of cattle quickly and also at low cost, artificial insemination centres with sub-centres have been opened in the district. These centres are at Barhiya and Begusarai with Mokameh and Abhaypur and Majhaul, Ballia, Khagaria and Dalsing-sarai sub-centres respectively. Important *goshalas* or farms for keeping cattle of the district have been supplied with improved breeding bulls to upgrade their cattle and also of the neighbouring locality. There are 12 *goshalas* in the district. They are at Monghyr (Shri Goshala Committee), Teghra, Begusarai, Lakhisarai (Shri Lakhisarai Charitable Goshala Society), Khagaria, Haveli Kharagpur, Barbiglia, Bakhari, Jamui, Sheikhpura, Gogri, Jamalpur and Jhajha. Apart from *goshalas* there is a *gosadan* at Bahaura. The *gosadan* scheme aims at segregation of practically useless and unproductive cattle. But the progress of the scheme is rather slow due to the unwillingness of the public in parting with their old and useless cattle.

Housing condition.—Ordinary cattle sheds, i.e., mud sheds or bamboo huts with thatch roof or local tiles or tins are generally provided by a cultivator for his cattle and repaired when necessary. In forest areas, cattle are more generally kept in open enclosures all the year round. In rains and winter cattle are kept in sheds and part of the house. In the *diara* areas cattle are kept in open fields throughout the year. Pucca cattle sheds are a rarity and provided only by the well-to-do cultivators.

Dairy-farming.

In order to organise the sale of pure milk the Government have encouraged to start new dairy farms as well as expanding the old ones. A scheme for organising the existing *goshalas* on modern lines is also initiated. There are two dairy farms in the district—Monghyr Jail Barbiglia, Bakhari, Jamui, Sheikhpura, Gogri, Jamalpur and Jhajha. In order to encourage the dairy development scheme, loans are given.

The statistics of production of milk during 1955-56 in the district were as follows:—

				(In maunds)
Cow-milk	..	..	..	31,17,784
Buffalo-milk	..	..	..	10,43,648
Goat-milk	..	..	..	12,031

Considering the vast population of the district the production of milk is quite inadequate which comes to about 4 ounces *per capita*.

Poultry

The indigenous method of keeping poultry is defective. Poultry is kept by a good number of people, but there is practically no system of proper housing and feeding except in a very few cases where improved types of birds are maintained. Normally the birds are let loose to feed and they do not always get healthy food. Birds are shut up in a dark corner in the night. They are not given any balanced diet and whatever is given in the form of paddy, rice, *marua*, etc. is often small in quantity, insufficient for even proper maintenance and growth. Improved types of birds are, however, better looked after in the Government farms and a house is provided for them with enclosures. Hand feeding is practised at places. There is only one poultry farm in the district which is located at Simultala. It is a very small affair.

The number of poultry in 1951 was 1,75,915 as against 2,03,105 in 1956. The break up figures of poultry of 1956 are given below—

Fowls—

Hens	68,121
Cocks	31,802
Chickens	83,234

Total	1,83,156
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Ducks—

Ducks	2,084
Drakes	720
Ducklings	688

Total	3,492
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Others

16,457

Total	2,03,105
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Cattle Fairs—In a number of *melas* mentioned elsewhere cattle are sold and purchased. The Animal Husbandry Department deputed officers to visit such *melas* and impart instruction for the improvement of the breed. The Department also occasionally holds demonstrations to spread proper ideas of upkeep of livestock.

Fisheries

In the text of the first chapter the principal species have been indicated. Under the Second Five Year Plan development of fisheries has been taken up and one Inspector of Fisheries had been appointed under the administrative control of the District Agricultural Officer. Owing to the development of communications there is a large export of fish from Monghyr, Jamalpur, Khagaria and other

places. Khagaria is particularly important for trade in fish. Fish trade is still in the hands of a group of financiers who exploit the fishermen. The organisation of Fishermen Unions had not yet been successful.

Forestry.

The forests of Monghyr district have been briefly described in the first chapter. All the forests had so far been privately owned, the principal owners being the Estates of Darbhanga, Banaili, Gidhaur and Khairā. With the implementation of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, the State Government have become the proprietor of these forests. All the forests of the district are now managed by the Government and there is no forest left in the hands of the private owners.

Animal Diseases and Veterinary Hospitals.

The common livestock diseases are rinderpest, hæmorrhagic, septicæmia, blackquarter, anthrax, surra and foot and mouth diseases. The Animal Husbandry Department deals both with the treatment and prevention of cattle-diseases. All outbreaks are attended to promptly with sera and vaccine, as the case needed. The affected animals are treated medicinally wherever possible. Mass inoculation is done against those diseases for which specific vaccines are available.

Veterinary assistance.—Veterinary activities have been extended throughout the district. In 1926 there were only four veterinary institutions of which two were veterinary hospitals and two dispensaries. The veterinary hospitals were at Monghyr and Begusarai and the dispensaries were at Khagaria, Jamui and in addition a touring assistant was attached to the Monghyr Hospital. The number of veterinary institutions has been increased by 1954 to three hospitals and eleven dispensaries. Veterinary hospitals are at Monghyr, Begusarai and Jamui and dispensaries are functioning at Haveli Kharagpur, Surajgarha, Sheikhpura, Barahiya, Khagaria, Simri Bakhtiarpur, Teghra, Ballia, Sikandra, Jhajha and Manjhaul with two field veterinary dispensary centres under each dispensary; of these veterinary institutions one class I veterinary dispensary at Manjhaul is under the direct control of the Government and the rest are managed by the District Board excepting the Monghyr Hospital which is under the management of the Monghyr Municipality. The services of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Manjhaul, have also been placed to National Extension Service Block of Bariarpur. There is one Veterinary Inspector whose headquarters have recently been shifted from Begusarai to Monghyr.

Reports on outbreaks of contagious diseases are promptly attended. Preventive as well as prophylactic inoculations are successfully carried out in controlling the outbreaks of anthrax.

hæmorrhagic, septicæmia, blackquarter, rinderpest and such contagious diseases amongst cattle.

Besides attending to epidemics, treatment of general diseases of animals, operation cases, castration of scrub bulls are undertaken scientifically at every hospital, dispensary and field centres within the district. It cannot, however, be said that the veterinary assistance provided is adequate.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE.

The district monograph on Monghyr by the All-India Rural Credit Survey published by the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay in 1959 has discussed the aspect of Government finance in Chapter X of the book. The chapter summarises the legal structure under which Government grant loans and subsidies under the various Acts and schemes and also the data relating to Government finance collected during the Survey. The summary is given here.

Government provide finance in the shape of loans and subsidies under the following Acts and schemes :—

- (1) The Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, and The Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884;
- (2) The Bihar Waste Lands (Reclamation, Cultivation and Improvement) Act, 1946;
- (3) The Bihar and Orissa Natural Calamities Loans Act, 1934; and
- (4) Minor Irrigation Schemes.

The main provisions of each of the Acts and schemes are set out below :—

THE LAND IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT, 1883, AND THE AGRICULTURISTS' LOANS ACT, 1884.

Under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, loans are granted for effecting any improvement in land which adds to its letting value. The improvements included are—

- (i) the construction of wells, tanks and other works for the storage, supply or distribution of water for the purposes of agriculture, or for the use of men and cattle employed in agriculture;
- (ii) the preparation of land for irrigation;
- (iii) the drainage, reclamation from rivers or other waters, or protection from floods or from erosion or other damage by water, of land used for agricultural purposes or waste land which is cultivable;

- (iv) the reclamation, clearance, enclosure or permanent improvement of land for agricultural purposes;
- (v) the renewal or reconstruction of any of the foregoing works, or alterations therein or additions thereto, and
- (vi) such other works as the Government may, from time to time, declare to be improvements for the purpose of the Act

The Agriculturists' Loans Act enables Government to give loans for relief of distress, purchase of seed or cattle or any other purpose not specified in the Land Improvement Loans Act but connected with agricultural objects

Under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the Collector is competent to sanction loans up to Rs 2,000. The loans exceeding Rs 2,000 but up to Rs 5,000 require the sanction of Government. In respect of the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the Subdivisional Officer can grant loans up to Rs 250 and the loans above it but up to Rs 700 are granted by the Collector. The loans above Rs 700 require the sanction of the Commissioner.

On receipt of an application for loans under any of the two Acts, the Collector or Subdivisional Officer first ensures that the application has been made or recorded in the prescribed form. If the grant of loan appears *prima facie* to be desirable, the Collector or Subdivisional Officer makes an enquiry or causes an enquiry to be made by an officer not below the rank of *Kanungo*, or by a reliable non-official agent, for the purpose of ascertaining several particulars such as the area of the land owned or occupied by the applicant, status of the applicant, that is, whether proprietor, tenure holder, etc., nature and value of immovable property offered as security, the pre-existing encumbrances on the property, names, status and means of sureties, suitable date for the repayment of the first instalment with reference to the circumstances under which the loans are applied for, proposed instalments and period of repayment and the date on which the loan should be received by the applicant. In the case of a loan under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the estimated utility and the value of the work proposed to be undertaken, probable cost of the work, and the probable date on which the work will begin to yield profit are also required to be reported by the official conducting the enquiry. Particular care is also taken to ascertain what encumbrances there are on the land to be improved, and in cases in which doubts arise, a notice is issued by the Collector or Subdivisional Officer, calling upon any person objecting to the loan, to appear before him at a time or place to be fixed in the notice and to submit his objections. Such notices are published by being fixed in a prominent place in the village in which the land to be improved is situated. After considering such evidences as the

objecting parties may produce, the Collector or Subdivisional Officer may admit the objections or overrule them

After completion of the enquiry and the disposal of the objections, if any, the Subdivisional Officer sends the application to the Collector with his opinion as to whether the loan is to be sanctioned or not. In considering the application for a loan, the Collector is to decide (1) whether the need for the loan is established, (2) whether the security offered is sufficient, (3) what amount should be advanced (4) the number of instalments and (5) what period is to be allowed before repayment commences. The rules require the Collector to satisfy himself that the advance made to the cultivator is sufficient to cover so much of the total outlay required for the construction of the work as the borrower is unable to provide out of his own resources

In the case of loans given under the Land Improvement Loans Act, where the amount of the loan does not exceed three fourths of the value of the applicant's transferable interest in the land after carrying out the improvement no collateral security is required. Where this condition is not satisfied, further security consisting of transferable interests in other lands belonging to the applicant or to other persons willing to become his sureties or of personal security is demanded. Lands which are not transferable without the land lord's consent are not ordinarily to be accepted as security. Where a body of five or more co-villagers bind themselves jointly and severally for the repayment of the loan, their personal security will generally be sufficient, provided the loan does not exceed five times the annual rent of the land held by members of the group.

In the case of loans given under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the loan may be given against the guarantee of a third party possessing transferable interest in the immovable property, provided the applicant does not himself have the transferable interest in immovable property, otherwise the transferable interest in immovable property of value sufficient to secure the loan is mortgaged.

The loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act are generally repayable in instalments within a period not exceeding 20 years while the loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are repayable within one or two years. The dates for repayment of loans under both the Acts are fixed by the Collector with due regard to the dates of harvest of principal crops, and under the Land Improvement Loans Act the time when the profit begins to accrue. The ordinary rate of interest on both the types of loans is $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum.

By a Government notification, dated May 22, 1951, Monghyr was declared as one of the districts affected with distress. Special statutory rules for the grant of loans became applicable. The scale of finance under special rules of the Agriculturists' Loans Act was fixed as Rs 20 per acre for first 5 acres and Rs 15 per additional

acre if the land was up to 10 acres. In case the land exceeded 15 acres, the rate was Rs. 20 per acre for first 5 acres, Rs. 15 per acre for next 10 acres and Rs. 10 per acre for the remaining lands.

THE BIHAR WASTE LANDS (RECLAMATION, CULTIVATION AND IMPROVEMENT) ACT, 1946.

Under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, the loans were generally given when the cultivator approached Government, whereas under the Bihar Waste Lands (Reclamation, Cultivation and Improvement) Act, Government empowered themselves to take possession of the waste or unproductive lands by notification and to arrange for their reclamation, cultivation and improvement in the prescribed manner at the cost of Government. Government after keeping the possession of the lands for a period not exceeding 10 years may direct the landlord or tenant by general or special order to take back the delivery of the land. The expenditure incurred by Government on the reclamation, cultivation and improvement under this Act may be recovered from the landlord or the tenant with interest rate not exceeding 3 per cent per annum.

THE BIHAR AND ORISSA NATURAL CALAMITIES LOANS ACT, 1934.

This Act enabled the Government to grant loans to owners of buildings which were damaged or destroyed by earthquakes or other natural calamities for purposes of construction or repairs of buildings.

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES.

The Minor Irrigation Drive was initiated in April 1948 by the Revenue Department in order to repair and extend the existing minor irrigation works, which had fallen into disrepair due to negligence of the landlords, and for the construction of new ones, wherever required.

The Collector or the Deputy Commissioner is responsible to Government for the execution of the projects under Minor Irrigation Drive in the district. The Collector can sanction schemes costing up to Rs. 5,000; schemes costing more than Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000, require the sanction of the Divisional Commissioner; and schemes costing more than Rs. 10,000 have to be sanctioned by Government. In the selection of the sites for the projects, the Collector is assisted by the District Irrigation Committee constituted under the Bihar Private Irrigation Works Act, 1922. The Collector is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee. During 1950-51, Rs. 12.0 lakhs were expended on these schemes.

GOVERNMENT AS THE CREDIT AGENCY.

In this section, the data collected by the field staff regarding the loans advanced by Government for agricultural purposes are

discussed Table below shows the number and amount of loans sanctioned by Government during 1950-51 for agricultural purposes.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES DURING 1950-51.

(Amount in thousands of rupees)

District data.	APPLICATION RECEIVED		APPLICATION SANCTIONED			PURPOSE FOR WHICH AMOUNT WAS SANCTIONED.			
	Number	Amount applied	Number	Amount applied	Amount sanctioned	Purchase of seed	Well digging and other irrigation	Land improvement	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, or similar Acts in force		312	250 9	59	70 9	49 2			49 2
Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884, or similar Acts in force		6,926	3,965 5	5,673	2,273 8	1,810 4	1,810 4*		
Loans under the Grow More Food Campaign									
Cash subsidies under the Grow More Food Campaign						353 2		353 2	

Under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, out of 312 applications received 59 or 18.9 per cent were sanctioned. The amount applied for was Rs 250.9 thousands of which Rs 49.2 thousands were sanctioned. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the applications received were 6,926 of which 83.2 per cent were sanctioned. The amount applied for was Rs 3,965.5 thousands and that sanctioned was Rs 1,819.4 thousands or about 46 per cent of the total amount applied.

* Includes the amount sanctioned for purchase of draught animals.

The data on borrowings from and debt owed to Government were also collected through General Schedule in respect of cultivating, non-cultivating and rural families and four classes of cultivating families. The relevant data are given in the table below :—

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AS A CREDIT AGENCY.

(General Schedule data.)

Group,	BORROWINGS.			DEBT.		
	Pro- portion of families bor- rowing from Govern- ment (per cent).	Bor- rowings per reporting family (Rs.).	Bor- rowings from this agency as per cen- tage of total bor- rowings.	Pro- portion of families indebted to Govern- ment (per cent).	Debt per indebted family.	Debt owed to this agency as percentage of the total debt owed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Big cultivators ..	12.2	211	3.6	14.0	295	3.8
Large cultivators .	7.5	257	4.6	14.8	259	5.5
Medium cultivators	9.4	109	5.1	13.8	150	6.0
Small cultivators ..	3.3	54	2.2	3.0	91	1.5
All cultivators ..	6.0	149	4.5	10.8	191	5.1
Non cultivators ..	0.6	111	1.1	0.7	149	0.9
All families ..	3.9	147	3.9	6.0	188	4.3

The proportion of the cultivating families borrowing from Government was 6.9 per cent and the average borrowings per reporting cultivating family were Rs. 149. Very few non-cultivators reported borrowings from Government. Even though the proportion of the borrowing families was relatively high among medium cultivators, the borrowings per reporting family were only Rs. 109 among medium cultivators as against Rs. 257 among large cultivators. The portion of borrowings of medium cultivators from Government to their total borrowings was highest at 5.1 per cent.

The pattern of debt owed to Government was also similar to that of borrowings among various classes of cultivating families.

Regarding loan operations the enquiry team studied 134 applications for loans from Government including 26 rejected applications selected at random at the four subdivisional headquarters for study. They came to the conclusion that loans for purchase of live-stock

and other purposes accounted for about 83 per cent of the loans disbursed the amount disbursed for these purposes was about Rs 32,000 or four fifth of the total amount disbursed. About 9 per cent of the loans constituting about 13 per cent of the amount disbursed was for finding and other land improvement purposes. Loans secured against immovable property accounted for about 82 per cent of the number of loans disbursed and about 84 per cent of the total amount disbursed. A large proportion of the amount disbursed for purchase of seed and live-stock was for the duration of 3 to 5 years, while for other purposes and more than one purpose the duration of one to three years was predominant.

The time lag between the date of application and the date of the disbursement of loans was also studied. All the loans studied were disbursed outside the place of residence of the applicants. There was a particular directive from Government for expeditious disposal of loan application as a result of the distressed conditions prevailing in the district. For this reason, it appears that about 44 per cent of the amount was disbursed within one month from the date of application. The loans for another 30 per cent of the applications were disbursed within the period ranging from one to three months. But it may be observed that usually loan applications are not disposed of within the short period of three months.

The bulk of the 26 rejected applications were for non approval for purposes of loans and a number were rejected due to delay or irregularities in applying for loans.

The most important point which the survey data indicated was that only 3.9 per cent of the rural family borrowed from Government. It was mentioned "The borrowings of the rural families from Government also constituted 3.9 per cent of their total borrowings. Judged against the background of disbursed conditions prevailing in the district and Government directives for liberalisation of finance in rural areas by applying special rules the quantum of finance appears to fall much short of the requirements".*

FAMINE, DROUGHTS AND FLOODS

Regarding the liability of famine and its visitation the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* published in 1926 mentions as follows —

"Since the creation of the district famine has occurred twice viz in 1866, and there have been two years of scarcity viz, 1892 and 1897. The experience of these years shows that the south of the district is most liable to famine, because there the people are mainly dependent

* Monograph on Monghyr district All India Rural Credit Survey Reserve Bank of India Bombay, 1959

on the winter rice crop North Monghyr is almost immune, the only portion affected in 1874 and in 1892 being the north of the Gogri thana, where there is a large area under rice, while in 1897 the whole tract escaped. It would appear that in this area short and even unseasonable rainfall is less disastrous in its effects than in South Monghyr, mainly because the winter rice crop is comparatively unimportant and the tenants are not dependent on a single season's crop but on two. The proverb that it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good is specially applicable to this area. A late monsoon, which elsewhere means the failure of the paddy seedlings, is usually coincident with a late rise of the Ganges,* and the result is that the cultivators in the long strip of North Monghyr bordering on the Ganges get a bumper maize crop. On the other hand, an early failure of the monsoon, which involves the drying up of land under winter rice, coincides with an early subsidence of the Ganges floods. The cultivator is consequently able to prepare the soil and sow early *rabi* crops, the money value of which is enhanced by the failure of the rice crop elsewhere, as well as by the fact that they come on the market in advance of other *rabi* crops. In the inland portions of the same area a comparative failure of the early monsoon rains is actually an advantage to the maize crop. Here, too, as in the *diaras*, an early stoppage of the rains gives an early *rabi* season, and as the cultivator relies as much on well irrigation as on rainfall for his most valuable crops, the comparative shortage of moisture is not very material. The following is a brief account of the famines from which the district has suffered.

Famine of 1866—The famine of 1866 was most severely felt in the south west and west of the district, in an area of about 1,300 miles, where rice is the staple crop. The crop of 1864 failed to a considerable extent, and with the certainty of a repeated failure in 1865, the market rate of the commonest sort of rice rose in October of the latter year to 11 seers for the rupee. Other food grains became proportionately dear and the inhabitants of the distressed localities began to flock into the town of Monghyr, where the gratuitous distribution of food was begun in November. At the close of the year there was some relaxation of the pressure in consequence of the gathering of the winter rice, and the continuation of public relief was deemed unnecessary. But this crop

* Ganges river is now known as Ganga (P. C. R. C.)

was also scanty, and after it had been reaped agricultural labour was again at a discount. The distress occasioned by the prevailing high prices of food now began to be felt in a more severe degree, the rate of rice in March being $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 seers, for pulses 15 to $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers and for maize 17 to 13 seers per rupee. In April crowds of paupers frequented the town, and in May the Municipal Committee resolved to undertake some works for the express purpose of assisting the destitute. As the object was to give employment to those who were able to work, but could find no market for their labour elsewhere, the rate of payment was fixed somewhat below the ordinary rates, but no labour was attracted on these terms.

No further relief measures were attempted till the following July, when, in consequence of the distress prevailing the gratuitous distribution of food was resumed. The price of rice had now risen as high as $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 seers of pulse 10 to 8 seers, and of maize 14 to 10 seers per rupee. Relief centres were established on the south of the Ganges at Monghyr, Jamui, Parsanda, Sikandra, Sheikhpura and Chakai in July and August and on the north of the Ganges where distress appeared later, at Begusarai and Teghra in the end of August and September. The month of greatest suffering was September when the price of rice still ranged from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 seers per rupee. In this month the daily average number of gratuitously relieved was 2,200 and in October 767 persons were employed on the construction of a new road between Jamui and Chakai. The highest total daily average number of persons obtaining public relief throughout the district at any period of the famine was 3,450. The distress was aggravated by an outbreak of cholera over the whole south west of the district. Deaths from this disease were very numerous, especially in Sheikhpura and Sikandra owing to the crowding together of large number of people, reduced by want of food to a very low condition of bodily strength. The number of deaths due to disease assisted or engendered by want, was returned by the police at 605, and deaths from actual starvation at 642.

Famine of 1874—As in other districts of Bihar the rainfall of 1871 in Monghyr was above the average, but it does not appear from official reports that the crops suffered. In 1872 the rainfall, normal as far as quantity is concerned, was not happily distributed in the Begusarai

and headquarters subdivisions, while in Jamui it was appreciably deficient. The consequence was that nowhere in the district were the crops above the average, while in Jamui they were decidedly below it. On the whole, the seasons preceding the summer of 1873 had not been as prosperous in South Monghyr as in the rest of Bihar; and although there was no actual scarcity, the prices current in the latter half of 1872 and the first half of 1873 show that the foodgrain market was from 10 to 20 per cent dearer than it previously had been. This antecedent period of pressure must have had, to some extent, an exhausting effect on the resources of the people.

The rainfall of 1873 was not greatly deficient in quantity, but it was unequally distributed. In July and August it was in excess; in September, when heavy rain is necessary, it was less than half the normal fall of that month; and in October there was no rain at all. The rainfall therefore was excessive, when excess was likely to be most injurious, and deficient, when a copious downpour was wanted. The consequence of this unseasonable excess and abnormal deficiency was that only three-eighths of the autumn crops were saved; while the outturn of winter rice in the headquarters and Begusarai subdivisions was but one-eighth, and in Jamui subdivision, which is the great rice-producing region of the district, but one-fourth of the average crop. It is, therefore, not surprising that in January, 1874 the prices of rice and Indian corn, the two staple articles of food, were double the normal rates at that time of the year. 'It is', wrote Mr. A. P. MacDonnell, *'a fact pregnant with meaning that they were dearer than the prices which prevailed in January, 1866. In the latter year the high prices of January rose to famine rates in April, and all through the summer and well into the autumn these famine rates prevailed. The result was a mortality which Mr. Cockerell's figures do not attempt to measure, and scenes of ghastly misery, of which I retain a vivid recollection'.**

Fortunately, during the earlier months of the year the district food-supply received a large addition from the produce of the rabi crops, which yielded three-fourths of an average harvest all over the district. This favourable outturn was doubtless largely due to the fact that much of the soil, being liable to inundation, is to a considerable degree independent of the rainfall. This was not

* *Foodgrain supply and Famine Relief in Bihar and Bengal, Calcutta, 1876.*

all. The moisture in the soil, which brought the *rabi* to, if not full, at least nearly full maturity enabled the people, herein far more fortunate than their neighbours to the north, to sow a large crop of subsidiary food-grains, which, the Collector estimated, covered 10 per cent of the cultivated area of the district. It may therefore be said that the district drew, from internal sources, a supply of foodgrain sufficient, had it been freely available, and had none been exported, to have supported the people in their usual state for nine months, or sufficient to have supported them in straitened circumstances over the whole period of the scarcity. But the local food-supply could have done no more than this; it was by no means freely available, and it was largely exported. The consequence was a continuous pressure which, at times and in particular localities, deepened into actual distress, necessitating Government relief.

On the 24th April it was reported that, except in the neighbourhood of Bakhtiarpur, the condition of the district was on the whole satisfactory. The cold-weather crops had been succeeded by a good *mahua* crop—supplies were ample; and there had been no great export of *rabi* grain, while the number of persons on relief works had fallen to 5,364. At the end of May the condition of affairs was generally favourable, and in most cases improved; but the circle officers of Bakhtiarpur stated that 'there can be no doubt that, but for the timely assistance of Government, many thousands of persons would have died of starvation in this circle'. In the beginning of August none of the subdivisional or circle officers reported any distress; and a large incoming *bhadai* harvest was spoken of, except on the low lands near Lakhisarai, where this crop was destroyed by floods in the Kiul. On the 3rd October all relief ceased.

The average daily number of persons employed on relief works was 4,210 in December, 1873 and 5,227 in January, 1874; it rose to 10,596 in May and to 11,148 in June, and then fell sharply to 3,912 in July, 1,972 in August and 332 in September. The average daily number of persons gratuitously relieved was 3,402 at the end of May and reached the maximum of 5,150 in the beginning of August. It fell to 2,084 in the first part of September and to 100 at the end of that month. Altogether, Rs. 4,03,322 were spent on relief, viz., Rs. 83,865 on charitable relief, Rs. 1,32,993 on wages of labour and Rs. 1,86,464 on loans.

Famine of 1892—Scarcity occurred in 1892 owing to the scanty outturn of the winter rice crop of 1891, preceded by a short crop in 1890. Anxiety was felt chiefly for the low tract of country in the Monghyr subdivision, on the north of the Ganges, extending to the boundaries of Darbhanga and Bhagalpur, but eventually relief operations were found necessary only in the extreme north of this belt, within the jurisdiction of the Bakhtiarpur outpost of the Gogri thana. Several influences combined to accentuate the distress in this tract, the extreme poverty of the population in all seasons, the sandy nature of the soil over the most of the area, and the failure of the rains for two successive seasons. The tract covers an area of some 400 square miles, of which the western portion is flooded during the rainy season and is devoted to paddy. The almost complete failure of the paddy in 1891, after a very small crop of 1890 rendered the larger part of the population wholly dependent upon *sag* and roots.

Relief works were started in February, 1892, but were at first very poorly attended apparently because of the recollection of the relief operations in 1874. In that year also Bakhtiarpur was a relief centre, and the rayats had a vivid recollection of how grain carts rumbled into their villages, and they fared more or less luxuriously, and they fancied they would be treated in a similar manner if they refused to do coolies' work on the roads. The numbers on work continued to be low till the latter part of May, when the excavation of some tanks in the extreme north of the district resulted in a sudden rush of labourers. The highest average daily attendance on relief works (1,815 persons) was reached in the week ending the 2nd July. After that the situation was so far relieved by opportune rain and the prospect of a good *bhadar* crop, that the number of labourers rapidly dwindled away until the relief works were closed on the 23rd July. Gratuitous relief was commenced in the latter part of February, and continued till the 20th August, i.e., a month longer than the relief works. The average daily number so relieved was 235 for a period of 24 weeks, the daily number seldom falling below 200, but never exceeding 300.

The following summary of the main features of the famine is extracted from the final report of the Collector (Mr C A Oldham, I.C.S.)—'Relief operations were undertaken on but a very small scale in a small and compact area. Appearances were certainly in favour of expecting that

a very large proportion of the population would rush to the works. From the small numbers shown in the rolls, a lesson may be learnt, first, that after one year's total failure and a very small harvest of a previous year, the people could still manage to tide over the distress. The only explanation of this is that they keep a year's stock at least in store, and this was proved to me on more than one occasion in the villages. Secondly, the remarkable extent to which the poorer classes can find means of subsistence from roots and bulbs. The remarkable abundance of two roots, *chichor* and *bisaur*, the former a bulb somewhat like a very small potato growing in low lying swamps and the latter the root of an aquatic plant, had a very potent effect in allaying the distress. In every village a crowd of women and children might be seen digging up these roots and drying them for food. I calculated that some 5,000 people were living more or less entirely on these roots, and the very unusual drought had dried up the beds of *chairs* which, in ordinary years, remain full and so gave access to a larger supply.

Famine of 1897—Monghyr was scarcely affected by the famine of 1897, which was so severely felt in the neighbouring district of Darbhanga. The rainfall of 1895-96 had been short, amounting only to 33.64 inches, and the crops had consequently been by no means full, but work and money were plentiful, and the cultivators obtained good prices for their produce. In 1896-97 the district shared in the drought which lasted till May in the break in the rains from the 20th July to 20th August, which spoiled the hopes of the *bhadai* and in the final drought from the 24th September to the 31st December 1896. After that date there was good rain every month, and the weather was particularly favourable to agricultural prospects, though not to the mango and *mahua* crops. Not one in twenty of the mango trees flowered, and the *mahua* blossoms being injured by the storms of March, the produce was from a half to two thirds of the average. On the other hand the district was fortunate in receiving no less than 11.26 inches of rain in September, 1896 and the total rainfall from April, 1896 to April, 1897 was 41.80 inches. In the end, the outturn of *bhadai* was $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas of winter rice 8 annas and of *rabi* 12 annas, taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn.

In one respect the position was peculiar, viz., that the district produced enough food to support its own population but the famine in Upper India and the failure of crops

in Eastern Bengal drained off the surplus, and high prices prevailed not only for rice but for all foodgrains. The people, in fact, suffered owing to high prices caused by exportation rather than to bad local crops. Still, though there was some distress owing to the high level of prices, the pinch was felt only in parts of the Jamui and Monghyr subdivisions. Here, however, the poppy was an excellent crop, enabling the people to pay their rents while they saved their foodgrains, and the Begusarai subdivision fared well, owing to the good crops of tobacco and pepper which are extensively grown there. Nothing like famine ensued, the necessary public relief being afforded by means of a fund raised locally and expended on charitable relief. The District Board, it is true, started a road from Chakai to Nawadih in the Jamui subdivision, as a test relief work, in order to ascertain whether the opening of relief works was necessary, but it did not attract labourers."

SCARCITY

After the famine of 1897 a period of normalcy ensued in the district for more than two decades. The next impact which Monghyr had to face was in 1919-20. This scarcity was caused due to deficient rain fall. Again in 1928-29 and 1932-33 scarcity condition prevailed in the district due to uneven rainfall. In 1943-44, 1944-45, 1946-47 and 1947-48 especially Jamui subdivision suffered due to drought which was caused owing to deficient rainfall. Paddy crop totally failed. The year 1951-52 witnessed the total failure of the *Hathya* rains which caused scarcity condition throughout Bihar. The agriculturist and especially the landless labourers were hard hit. Relief measures were taken to meet the situation. There had been wide spread drought in 1957 due to the failure of *Hathya* rains. This caused scarcity throughout the district and widespread relief measures had to be taken. Emergency measures had to be taken and food grains were rushed to the district from within and outside the State. In order to find money to the people to buy foodstuff a large number of hard manual and light manual schemes were taken up. Rs. 10,02,450 and Rs. 21,847 were spent respectively over these schemes. Gratuitous relief was also distributed—Rs. 3,27,755 in cash and 1,507 maunds of wheat in kind. Fair price shops were opened to check the rising price of the foodgrains. The number of such shops on the 1st April, 1958 was 1,050.

Floods

Regarding floods the last District Gazetteer published in 1926 mentions as follows—

- ' Though the northern portion of the district is not, as a rule liable to suffer much from short and unseasonable

fall it is exposed to flood from the overflowing of the Ganges and its affluents. In Gogri thana, with the exception of a small area in the extreme north, and in the north-eastern portion of thana Begusarai, the whole country is regularly flooded by the overflow of the Bagmati and the Tiljuga rivers and their numerous tributaries. The extent of the flood varies from year to year, but, as no attempt is made to grow any but cold weather crops in the area liable to flood the damage done is confined to years when the flood subsides too late to allow such cultivation—and this can seldom or never happen except in comparatively small areas where cultivation is ordinarily precarious. In the central portion of the thanas Teghra and Begusarai floods are not, as a rule, caused by the overflow of the Burhi Gandak, which flows between high and well defined banks, and any damage that may be caused thereby to the *bhadai* crops is counterbalanced by the increased outturn of the succeeding cold weather crops. In the southern strips, between the Ganges and the railway embankment, there are annual inundations which vary, however, in extent and in point of time. Much depends on the latter factor: in the floods of September 1904 less damage was caused than in those of August, 1894 because the crops had already been partly reaped in the former year, whereas the floods of 1894 occurred a week or ten days before harvesting could be commenced.

“At the same time, it must be admitted that there is a general belief that since the building of the railway embankment, the floods invariably do damage, however seasonable they may be. In the first place, the embankment confines the flood water to a smaller area which is thus flooded to a greater depth than would otherwise have been the case. Secondly it banks the water up preventing it from spreading northwards and eastwards gradually as it used to do, without doing any particular harm. Now the banked up water either drowns the crops or flows in a rapid current eastward, breaching *bandhs* and, by its rush, damaging crops. Apart from this, however, even a destructive flood has one compensating advantage in the shape of a rich deposit of silt and a corresponding prolific *rabi* crop in the next cold weather.

Of late years the most serious floods have been those of 1894, 1901, 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1923. From the following description of the floods of 1904 and 1906

an idea may be gathered of the general nature of the floods to which the north of the district is liable

"Flood of 1904—The flood of 1904 was due to the abnormal height to which the Ganges rose. It was not quite so high as in 1901, when the gauge at Monghyr read 27.75 feet above zero on the 8th September, but in the latter year the flood rose and fell more rapidly. On the 4th September 1901, the water stood at 24.67 feet; on the 5th it rose to 25.75 feet, on the 6th to 26.67 feet, on the 7th to 27.5 feet, on the 8th to 27.75 feet but it fell again so rapidly that by the 11th it was down to 24.58 feet and by the 14th September to 17.58 feet only. It was over 25 feet for six days only. In 1904 the river rose above 25 feet on the 14th August, attained 27.25 feet on the 19th and fell to 26.83 feet on the 20th, to 25.75 feet on the 24th and to 24.58 feet on the 29th. It was thus altogether 15 days above 25 feet. Owing to the duration of this flood, the maximum attained and the existence of the Bengal and North Western Railway embankment, it was probably one of the severest floods ever experienced in the tracts affected. These tracts were (1) the country round Begusarai to the west, (2) the country round Gogri to the east, and (3) a small tract near Monghyr town. It will be convenient to deal with each of these tracts separately.

"The flood in Begusarai was mainly due to the fact that the Gupta Bandh, an embankment about 18 miles long extending from Mahua to Samho, was breached in 10 or 12 places and the Ganges water poured in from the south and west, flooding the whole area south of the Bengal and North Western Railway lines from two miles west of Tilrath station up to Ballia. To the east of Ballia the country was also flooded, but this occurs nearly every year, and was not due to the bursting of the *bandh*. The area flooded in consequence of the bursting of the *bandh* has been variously estimated at 67 or 100 square miles. The depth of water varied according to the configuration of the country. In some low lying places it was 8 to 10 feet deep; round village sites it was rarely more than 4 to 5 feet deep, and a large number of villages built on higher sites were not touched. The state of affairs in Begusarai itself may be gathered from the report of the Collector, Mr C. A. Oldham, I.C.S. 'All communication between the railway stations and the town and subdivisional office was cut off by the floods. The water was beyond a man's

depth, and a swift current was flowing eastwards. Luckily we spied a boat in the distance, which the police had brought to render assistance in the town and which we hailed and got into. We first proceeded to some houses where 15 to 20 people were sitting on the roofs, and as they were in danger of being washed away, we took them off in two trips to some high land and then proceeded through streets to the subdivisional office. Here we found the Subdivisional Officer, Mr Ward, isolated on the upper storey of his house, with inmates of the local subsidiary jail on his roof, and records from his subordinate offices, thana, etc., in the upper verandahs. The flood had come in so suddenly, that he had scarcely had time to save the stamps and notes in the treasury and the records of his office, thana, jail, etc. When we arrived, the water was 9 inches over the plinth. It continued to rise that night, and to make matters worse for the poor people outside, it rained in torrents. Owing to the current *kutchas* houses were falling on all sides. I decided to get to the railway line, as communication might be wholly cut off at any moment and I could better organize relief from Monghyr. We got into the boat and tried to reach the station, but could make no head way against the current where it was strongest, and were driven back to the subdivisional office and residence. The office is in the lower storey and the residence in the upper storey of the same building. Next morning, I got to the station by going down with the current in the boat and striking the railway embankment. The water was at this time more than a foot deep over the plinth of the lower storey, and three feet deep around the building.

"The flood was the highest on record in the town, the next highest flood there, according to local tradition, having occurred some 30 years before, when the water came up to the subdivisional office, but did not top the plinth. In 1901, when the Ganges reached 28 feet (the record for Monghyr since gauge readings have been taken), the Gupta Bandh was also breached, but the water only just reached the subdivisional office drain, and did not actually touch the building itself. On this occasion the water was about two feet higher than on either of the previous occasions, and, moreover, the damage done to houses was very much greater.

The tract that suffered most was that lying between the Bengal and North Western Railway line and the Tirhut road

Here the water, having topped and breached the road in its progress northwards, was stopped by the railway embankment, and then turned eastwards, a considerable current setting in between the road and the railway, which are not far apart. Not less than 1,125 mud-walled houses are known to have collapsed, but the houses in the *diara*, which are built of wattle and thatch, nearly all withstood the flood. The *bhadai* crops, consisting chiefly of maize, were seriously damaged. Much fortunately had already been harvested, but of the remainder some was entirely destroyed and in places 50 to 75 per cent was lost.

boats from Harnathpur *diara*. On the 22nd instant, news having been received that Harnathpur was in extreme danger, a Deputy Magistrate chartered a steamer and boats, and with the assistance of the police rescued some 95 persons, their property, and 2100 cattle leaving no one on the *diara*, which was subsequently swept away. All the inhabitants of Raghunathpur *diara* with their cattle were safely brought away next day, and the people were removed without loss of life from Chaintola on the Zamindari *diara* which was also being cut away.

"Flood of 1906—In 1906 the floods which annually visit Pharkiya *pargana* and parts of Begusarai subdivision and which are caused mainly by the overflow of the Gandak and Tiljuga and by the Ganges spill were unusually early. About the 14th August the Gandak and Tiljuga began to rise to an abnormal height and about the same time the Ganges also reached a height of over 24 feet. The Collector who was out at Chaprion found on his way back to Khagaria on the 17th that except on very high lands nearly all the villages had suffered and that the *bhadai* crop was practically destroyed. Only in a few villages had the villagers managed to cut and save some partially ripe *marua* and *mize*. A large number of people had been rendered homeless and were in great distress, the more so as the outturn of *rabi* had been very poor during the previous season and the *bhadai* in 1905 had also been nearly a failure. The flood continued to rise till the 19th remained stationary for four or five days and began to fall about the 23rd. By this time the whole of the Pharkiya *pargana* north of the railway line with the exception of a few villages and high lands in the north eastern corner had been swamped and entire villages were under water while in the Begusarai subdivision, the Gandak, with its tributary the Balan had done considerable damage in a strip of land about six or seven miles broad along the southern bank of the Gandak.

"The area between the Bengal and North Western Railway line and the Ganges which is liable to inundation by the floods of that river suffered much less for it has partial protection from the Public Works Department embankment near Teghra the Gupta Bandh in the Begusarai subdivision and the Gogri Bandh near Gogri and so long as they did not give way the only areas liable to flood were those lying outside them, viz.,

the area between the Gupta and Gogri Bandhs and the area east of the Gogri Bandh. Fortunately these embankments remained intact and the Ganges did not rise very high and though crops were lost in places south and east of the Gupta Bandh, the damage does not appear to have been as great as had often been the case in previous years.

“Altogether, an area of 1 074 square miles suffered from the floods, the distress being keenest in parts of Ballia thana and in the portion of the Khagaria thana bounded on the east by a line from Khagaria to Sarabhita Ghat, on the north-east by the Tiljuga river up to Mohraghat, on the north-west by the boundary of the district, and on the south-west by a line from Bakhti to Khagaria. South of the Ganges the Government tenants in Binda diara and Kutlupui lost their *bhadai*, and much damage was caused in the area between the river and the East India Railway line from Monghyr to Kajra. Loans were given to the distressed in the tracts most severely affected, the Gogri and Khagaria thanas and the Bakhtiarpui outpost. It was at first intended to fix the average of loans at Re 1 per *bigha* and to distribute no loan to any raiyat possessing more than 10 *bighas*, but this idea had to be given up owing to the serious nature of the distress prevailing. The average was therefore, raised to Rs 2 per *bigha*, and agriculturists having 20 *bighas* were allowed loans. It soon became evident, however, that even this was insufficient, consequently, the average was again raised to Rs 3 per *bigha*, and the maximum amount which a single individual could take was fixed at Rs 80. Altogether Rs 56 000 were distributed as loans.

“Floods of 1916 and 1923.—In 1916 there was an unusually high flood of the Ganges in the *diara* lands, while at the same time the rise of the Bagmati and Burhi Gandak flooded the northern part of the Begusarai subdivision. There was considerable loss of cattle and destruction of *kachha* houses but only one human life was lost. In August of 1923 there was an exceptionally high flood in the Ganges which occurred during a long break in the rains when the river had begun to fall, and nobody thought of the possibility of a flood. But in the third week of August though the river was low in Bihar, its higher reaches were in flood and between the 18th and the 21st of the month there was the great flood in the Son, of which an account may be found in the Gazetteer of Shahabad district.

The Ganges flood came down to Monghyr district on the 22nd of August, rapidly raising the river to a height only three quarters of an inch below the highest flood level known. There was no loss of human life, and very little loss of cattle, but the loss of houses was large, because in addition to the loss of the flimsy huts of the *diara* area built in expectation of destruction by flood there were many more substantial houses destroyed where the river rose over what is normally its northern high bank.

In 1924-25 parts of Sadai subdivision and Begusarai subdivision suffered due to overflow of the Ganga. There was a high flood in 1929-30 in the Begusarai subdivision which was caused owing to the flood in Ganga. There was a great damage to *bhadai* crops. In 1937-38 the district suffered badly due to flood in the Ganga. Khagaria, Begusarai and part of Sadar subdivisions were affected severely due to the flood in the Ganga and its tributaries. In 1948-49 all parts of the district except Jamui subdivision witnessed unprecedented flood due to the overflow of the Ganga, Burhi Gandak and Baghinati and their tributaries. The State Government adopted relief measures to meet the situation.

Flood of 1953

Regarding the river Ganga the report* mentions that the course of the river of about 70 miles in the district is both wide and deep all round the year and in rains the water spread over north side for a distance of 20 square miles from its ordinary beds. It has a general tendency to spill northwards, but due to the presence of Gupta Bandh, old Gogri Bandh and the construction of the Gupta Lakhminia and Gogri Narampur embankments in 1950-51, the tendency has been checked and the danger of flooding the area lying north of the embankments especially Begusarai town and the Gogri police station and Narampur village has been very much minimised. Intensity of the flood in 1953 was not at all high. The most important embankments on Ganga are Gupta Lakhminia embankment, Gupta Bandh, Gogri Narampur embankment and other Gupta Bandhs.

The Gupta Lakhminia embankment is 12 miles 540 feet long and the area protected is 16,000 acres. Gupta Bandh is 13 miles long starting from the village Garahra to the village Sayedpur and the Gupta Lakhminia embankment has been constructed in continuation of Gupta Bandh. The Gupta Bandh is 8 feet high on the average.

The Gogri Narampur embankment was completed in 1953 on the left bank of the Ganga and the Burhi Gandak which is 26 miles

* North Bihar Flood Report 1953 (Irrigation Department, Bihar)

7 furlong long and lies in both Mongliyr and Bhagalpur districts. The old Gogri Bandh extended over a length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles commencing from the railway embankment from the village Chaidah and joining the Gogri-Narainpur embankment at Gogri and from the Public Works Department it has been transferred to the Irrigation Department in 1950 when the construction of the Gogri-Narainpur embankment was taken up. This is an important *bandh* because any breach in the *bandh* will affect the important trading bazars of Gogri, Jamalpur, Muskipur, Balan Bazar and Maheshkhunt.

Regarding the river Burhi Gandak the report mentions that the catchment area of the river is plain and slopes from the west to east at 34 feet per mile. The catchment area is about 478 square miles. The soil on the banks is mostly *dorasa* with high percentage of sand at many places.

During the year of high flood in the Ganga, the water of Burhi Gandak is held up, and the back water raises the flood level of the Burhi Gandak, with the result that the area lying on both the banks of the river used to be highly inundated. The river was in spate on the 28th June, 1953 due to torrential rain in the upper catchment near Nepal border. Rainfall recorded at Begusarai from the 15th June to 27th June, 1953 was 6.89 inches. This water, however, remained confined within the banks. Rainfall from the beginning of July was also copious and the river started rising rapidly from 28th July again. The gauge at Siwari Ghat rose from 130.12 feet to 136.77 feet on 2nd August, 1953 and a maximum of 137.17 feet on 3rd August, 1953 as against a maximum of 136.37 feet of last year.

The river started spilling both its banks right up from Manjhaul (nearly eight miles from Parihara) to its outfall. The depth of the spill varies from 3 feet to 7 feet. Due to breaches in the embankment at Patsara and Nawkothi, 75 per cent of the area of Bakhari and Bariarpur thanas were submerged, destroying the standing *bhadai* crops and even entered the homestead lands. The river spilled over its left bank at village Samsa (6 miles east of Manjhaul) and joined with the flood water already entering into the area through the breach of Nawkothi *bandh* (locally known as *Rolitha bandh*).

The flood water after flowing due north from the above two breaches for two miles, divided itself into two directions, one entering the Kabar Tal, after causing breaches in Manjhaul-Garhpura road in north-east direction, and the other due north and combined with the spill water coming from Samsa side. This water forces its way through the Kabar drainage channel crossed over to the other side, flowed into the Chanha *nala* and ultimately discharged into the river Baghmata after crossing a number of local drainages. This caused extensive damage to the area lying to the east of Bakhri Salauna.

Regarding the remedial measures the report has mentioned as follows —

It has been suggested in the flood report of Sri P. C. Ghosh that flooding of the area lying on the bank of the river Burhi Gandak is dependent on the flood conditions of the Ganga and hence no remedial measure can be suggested but the experience of the flood has shown that in spite of the Ganga flood level being considerably lower the flooding of the area lying on both the banks of the river Burhi Gandak has been extensive. It therefore indicates that this river is capable of flooding extensively without the back water of the river Ganga. Construction of a number of embankments in recent years restrict the spreading of spill water and hence it may be that flood water lets loose all its energy in the lower reaches and strikes the embankments with great force for finding a way either by breaching the embankment or spilling straight where there is no embankment. Besides these there were a number of *nallas* which used to work as escape channels but all these outlets have been closed due to the construction of a number of sluices and it is just possible that these factors might also be attributing to raise the intensity of the flood.

To protect the area lying in lower reaches specially those falling within the jurisdiction of Bakhti and Bariarpur thanas where the suffering and misery was due to ravages of flood for the last two years construction of an embankment after taking into account flood data of recent years appears to be absolutely essential. Besides protecting the areas referred to above it will afford protection to costly bridges and flood sluices and the Kabar channel itself which otherwise are left exposed and the vulnerable Kabar drainage channel will not work efficiently if some protective measures are not taken.

Regarding the river Balan it is mentioned that the flood water did not overtop the embankment although it flushed the crest of the embankment at places. The embankment of the Irrigation Department on both the banks stood against the floods but the private embankment at Pakthoul and Pakri gave way inundating some 2 000 acres of *bhadai* crops.

The report mentions regarding remedial measures that the embankments constructed under the M. P. M. Nala Scheme and the Satraji Nala Scheme on either bank are not in one continuous chain. They are terminated at high lands as these were constructed

on the basis of hydrological data available before 1950, when the survey was done. The flood water level has gone higher up in the last two years and hence lands which were known to be high and unaffected with the flood water prior to 1950 have been affected with the flood for the last two years.

"As conditions have changed, it is necessary that continuous embankments be given all along, so that safety of the entire protected area can be guaranteed. The very purpose of providing embankments is defeated if flood water can find its way to inundate the protected area through some of the gaps which were left considering them to be high lands."

Regarding the protection from the flood of the Baruti and the Baghmati rivers it was suggested that vigorous police patrolling is needed at all the sluice sides and other strategic points. It was further suggested to strengthen the existing embankments.

CHAPTER V.

INDUSTRIES

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

Walter Hamilton in his description of "Hindustan and the Adjacent Countries (1820)" mentioned about the celebrated tailors of Monghyr and that much of the army clothing was made there besides shoes, "both of native and European fashions". He further mentioned "Here also, and at Boglipoor, are some workmen who make European furniture, palanquins, and carriages, and when furnished with sound materials, and well looked after, are really clever workmen. The blacksmiths occupy about 40 houses, and make goods after the European fashion very coarse when compared with English articles, but still useful and cheap as will be seen by the following prices, viz, double barrelled guns 32 rupees, rifles, 30 single barrelled fowling pieces, 18, muskets, 8, match-locks, 4, pistols 10, double ditto, 30, table knives and forks per dozen, 6 rupees. The barrels of the fire arms are made by twisting a rod round an iron spindle, and then hammering it together, the bore is afterwards polished and enlarged by borers of different sizes."

Dr Francis Buchanan had travelled through Monghyr district during 1810-11. His Statistical Report on Bhagalpur district published more than a century later has valuable information regarding the occupations and industries of Monghyr district.

He mentions of manufacture of coarse soap, tallow candles, and torches of old rags formed into a roll. At Monghyr at that time much of the army clothing was made for which a large number of tailors were employed. He refers to the manufacture of coarse glass of which bracelets (*chun*) were made. Enamels of two types and mats of common reed or *Narkat*, which they split open and inter-weaved. The mat makers of Gogri made also mats of the sacred grass called *kus*. There were makers of baskets. In the villages, the tanners formed a regular part of the village establishments. A class of them known as *Dabgar* made leather bags for holding juice of sugarcane, molasses, boiled butter and oil. Manufacture of fire works, tobacco for the pipe, distillation of liquor, manufacture of oil and preparation of curds, boiled butter and cheese for the garrisons kept a large number of families busy. There were also confectioners who prepared sweetmeats, including a preparation of intoxicating sweets from the juice of hemp-leaves.

The blacksmiths and carpenters were in great demand. They made agricultural implements and superior type of household furniture. Their manufactures were a great deal after the European fashion and sold well to passengers and in Calcutta. The articles chiefly made were chairs, stools, couches, bedsteads, tables, palanquins

and carriages. Monghyr town alone had about forty such workshops. Boat building was also one of their line. There were good painters at Monghyr who would paint houses, boats, palanquins and carriages. There were some Goyalas (Goalas?) who processed a yellow paint from cattle urine. There were turners who made various articles. Hair combs of *karam* wood were also made. Two kinds of water bottles used to be made. The potter of Monghyr would make his ware of a smooth black clay, which he found near Chandī Sthan. Images from clay were also moulded. There were brickmakers too.

Due to the existence of several quarries the stone-cutters and stone workers were many. Plates, cups, mortars, weights, images of Siva and the stones of hand mills were made from different types of stones and slates. Goldsmiths of Monghyr had a good reputation for their skill that compared well to that of the Calcutta goldsmiths.

In working of the iron mines and iron smelting the workmen did not possess much skill or knowledge. Iron from Kharakpur (Kharagpur?) was considered to be the best. Monghyr was a good market for iron because of gun making establishments. Fire arms, tea kettles, sword blades or spears with gold or silver and gun barrels with gold or silver inlaid were manufactured. Dyeing of clothes with colours was a flourishing trade. The indigo works were judiciously constructed and all built of brick. Salt also was manufactured and the manufacturers were called *Nunias*.

As Francis Buchanan was widely mentioned by W. W. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Monghyr (1877) a mention here to Hunter is appropriate.

Hunter reiterated that the following industries existing in Francis Buchanan's time flourished at his time also. They comprised the manufacture of double barrel guns, rifles, single barrel fowling pieces, muskets, blunderbusses, ordinary match locks, carved match locks, single barrel pistols, tea kettles, fish kettles, iron ovens, saucepans, frying pans, chafing irons, chamber stoves or grates, kitchen stoves, ladles, ramrods, swords, spears, table knives and forks, scissors, lutes for bridles, stirrup irons, horse shoes and hobnails, spurs, hatchets, hoes, padlocks, chest locks and door locks, hinges, clamps for boat building, nails for clinker built boats, common nails, curry-combs, sickles without teeth, spades for cutting grass for horses, large sickles for cutting grass, sickles with teeth, palanquins, cast iron furniture, corkscrews, razors, tongs, coarse needles and wheel spindles. Hunter also mentions the art of plating sword handles and other articles with gold and silver that was carried on during his time. About iron smelting process which was regarded as primitive he gives a detailed account. Hunter's omission of certain industries like boat building, etc., should not lead us to think such industries had disappeared by Hunter's time. Boat building or dairy products and particularly the making of fresh cheese did continue and have continued since.

Among minor industries, Hunter mentioned manufacture of soap from tallow and linseed oil and making of leather goods including foot-wear. *Tal* or palm and ebony were the principal source of ornamental woods. Water bottles of clay or *sutais* were made of very fine clay available near Chandī Stian and to colour them a red clay called *Gabi*, found near Sitakund was used. Stone and slate were cut and dressed, and it is also mentioned that a large number of *lingas* for the temples of Siva were made from the chlorite summits of the Monghyr hills. Slate quarries however did not return much profit.

Manufacture of colouring materials was also a flourishing trade. Varieties of colour dyes prepared from different materials were available. The *kusum* or safflower, *lahi*, or lac dye, *simbrik* or sulphate of mercury or cinnabar, *haldi* or turmeric, *haritaki* (*Terminalia chebula*) and *kassis* were the sources from which colours were made. Cow urine was also utilised to get an yellow paint called *Pert* or *Piyun*. Hunter mentioned about indigo which had become a major manufacture of this district by the second half of the nineteenth century.

It will be seen that most of the old time industries in Monghyr district pre-suppose a class of more cultured and economically well placed consumer. Monghyr from very early times has been the seat of this type of affluent families and the extensive river borne trade that Monghyr enjoyed facilitated transport of the manufactured articles. Throughout the Muslim period and till the establishment of British rule Monghyr occupied a position of great strategic importance. The recent excavations at Naulakigarh, Jammangalgarh and other places show unmistakably that superb workmanship in stone, metals, etc., came from earlier times. Much of Monghyr's old time industries centered round delicate and superb craftsmanship whether in the making of gold or silver inlaid guns and pistols, jewellery, stone images or furniture of high order. These major industries led to other minor industries like manufacture of paint, leather work, palanquins, agricultural implements etc.

It will be relevant to quote, from the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* published in 1926—

The skill of the artisans of Monghyr and the excellence of their work have long had more than a local reputation. One of the earliest products of the district now extinct appears to be the black stone throne or *masnad* of the Nawab Nazims of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa which bears on one of the 16 facets into which the rim is cut an inscription in Persian to the effect that this auspicious throne was made at Monghyr in Bihar by the humblest of slaves, Khaja Nagar of Bokharo in 1052 Hija, i.e., 1643 A.D. Later, in the eighteenth century, when Mir Kasim Ali made Monghyr his capital and set

up an arsenal there, the manufacture of iron work appears to have flourished Raymond (Mustapha Khan), the translator of the *Sau ul Mutakharin* (ca 1786), indeed says 'The European reader may possibly hear with surprise that the fire locks manufactured at Monghyr proved better than the best Tower proofs sent to India for the Company's use and such was the opinion which the English officers gave when they made the comparison by order of the Council of Calcutta. The flints were all Rajmahal agates, and their metal more mellow'

Mr Twining who visited Monghyr in 1794, when on his way up the Ganga with the Commander in Chief, Sir Ralph Abercromby, found much to admire in the iron ware of the Monghyr workmen 'Iron ore', he says, 'is more precious than gold to the industrious inhabitants of Monghyr, sustaining by its abundant and cheap supplies, an extensive manufactory of iron utensils of almost every description. A traveller from Europe is surprised to see presented to him for sale in the interior of India, knives and forks, saucepans, gridirons and tea kettles, which would not discredit an iron monger's shop in London. But it is not the kitchen alone that Monghyr is able to supply possessing an excellent fabrication of cabinet ware, chairs, tables, sofas, cots, bedsteads, drawers, etc—all made of a handsome black wood resembling ebony. The chairs and sofas, in particular, with cane bottoms are extremely neat, and scarcely inferior to the European models after which they are made. The commerce of Monghyr in these articles is very extensive. He also informs us that the mineral water obtained from the hot springs of Sitakund was in great request its principal virtue being its purity and consequent wholesomeness and also its property of remaining good for a great length of time in casks or bottles. For these reasons it is not only much drunk by the wealthier inhabitants of Monghyr, or such as can afford to send for it, but is often despatched to Calcutta for the use of persons about to undertake a long sea voyage. On these occasions it is either sent off in large jars or in bottles filled at the spring. I was told that in the latter case it would preserve its tasteless purity for more than a twelve month. Recollecting, when I heard this, the offensive water of the ship on my way to India, I resolved, if it pleased God that I ever returned to

England, I would take with me a few dozens of the water of Sitakund' *

From the journal of Bishop Heber, who visited Monghyr in 1824, we find that the industries of Monghyr were still flourishing 'I was surprised', he wrote, 'at the neatness of the kettles, tea trays, guns, pistols, toasting forks, cutlery and other things of the sort, which may be procured in this tiny Birmingham. The only thing which appears to be wanting to make their steel excellent is a better manner of smelting and a more liberal use of charcoal and the hammer. As it is their guns are very apt to burst and their knives to break precisely the faults which from want of capital beset the work of inferior artists in England. The extent however to which these people carry on their manufactures and the closeness with which they imitate English patterns show plainly how popular those patterns are'. The mineral water of Sitakund was still exported some persons in Calcutta drinking nothing else, while muskets and pistols were made and sold at cheap prices besides spears, which were ever cheaper, one of the best only costing Re 140. The Bishop purchased a number of the latter for his servants, so that his cabin looked like 'a museum of Eastern weapons'. His narrative also introduces us to another industry which has now unfortunately disappeared, viz, the production of talc for use in windows, blocks of talc which divided easily into thin but tough laminae as transparent as isinglass, being obtained from the Kharagpur hills. Thirty years before his visit this was the only approach to glass usually seen in windows of houses even of those belonging to Europeans †

Many of the industries mentioned by the early writers still survive and flourish and to them have been added large and important industries, such as stone quarrying and the manufacture of locomotives at the great workshops of Jamalpur.

Indigo

The following quotation from the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) gives the story briefly of how indigo flourished and declined in the district —

'In Sir William Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal (published in 1877) it is stated 'The great European

* T. Twining—*Travels in India* a hundred years ago, 1893

Sitakund water used to be bottled and sold in Calcutta forty years back. For this purpose the stream was banded near by (Phillip-Kund) and this mineral water was held in great demand particularly among the foreigners (P. C. R. C.)

† P. Heber Narrative of a journey through the Upper Provinces of India 1827

industry connected with the preparation of indigo has now for a long time taken the first place amongst manufacturers in this district, and still holds that position. The area under indigo cultivation is estimated at 10,000 acres and the output at 4,000 maunds or about 143 tons'. Sir William Hunter then proceeds to quote a return submitted by the officer incharge Begusarai subdivision in which nearly all the chief factories are situated', which shows that in 1869 five concerns were at work, viz., Manjhaul, Begusarai, Bhagwanpur, Begamsarai and Daulatpur. These concerns cultivated 19,500 bighas, employed 6,400 to 8,400 hands and produced 1,590 maunds of indigo but the output in that year was very much less than in average years. In an article on the Distribution of Indigo in Bengal published in the Statistical Report of 1877 we find a fuller account of the industry which is as follows—

Indigo cultivation in Monghyr is believed to be decreasing and is now almost entirely confined to the tract of country lying north of the Ganges. On the south of the river there are only four factories—two European and two native—and their manufacture for some time past has been very inconsiderable. North of the Ganges eleven factories are at work—eight being under European and three under Indian management. The area cultivated with indigo in the whole of the district may be stated as 15,000 acres, producing on an average 1500 maunds of manufactured dye. It is said that 5½ lakhs of rupees are yearly expended on indigo cultivation in the district. In Monghyr, as elsewhere indigo is grown on the best high lands that are available and the cultivation is unpopular with the ryots as displacing their most profitable crops. The zamindars, however, are favourably inclined towards the planters, who pay a high rent for indigo lands while the low landless castes such as Muslmans, Doms and Dosadhis, get better wages for work on indigo cultivation and manufacture than they could hope for in other lines.

Even as late as 1901-2 there were the following factories and outworks: (1) Begamsarai, with outworks at Teghra, Barahi Nawad and Jhmitia. (2) Bhagwanpur, having outworks at Agapur, Surajpur and Kirtaul. (3) Harrahi, with outworks at Masrampur, Mahua Dhabani and Muti Hasir. (4) Manjhaul with outworks at Bishunpur, Birpur and Garhpura. (5) Sisani,

with outworks at Bandwar, Gamharia and Kamalpur (6) Nayagaon and (7) Sadanandpur, with outworks at Hitanpur and Samastipur. There were also four outworks of factories in Darbhanga, viz Meghnaul and Ramnagar, outworks at Daulatpur, Malipur, an outwork of Mangalgarh, and Gobindpur, an outwork of Dalsinghsara. Even at the short time which has since elapsed the above list is mainly interesting from the point of view of a local historian. The number of ruined factory buildings which one sees in North Monghyr is a melancholy sight. The industry is declining owing to adverse seasons and the competition of the artificial product. Most of the planters have disappeared and those left are taking up zamindari and the cultivation of country crops as well as indigo.

The following table shows the factories now working. The two factories in the Monghyr subdivision are both in thana Kharagpur —

Subdivision	Factory	Outwork
Begusarai	Daulatpur Manjaul	Bandwar Bishunpur Gamharia Garhpura Sisauni
Monghyr	Digaon Sangrampur	

The process of disintegration of indigo cultivation and manufacture as a major occupation in the district that had started much earlier and has been referred to in the quotations above has now been completed since at least two or three decades. There is no indigo cultivation or manufacture now. The synthetic dye made the cultivation and manufacture of indigo rather uneconomic. The planters had added to their troubles by leaving the indigo *ryots* more or less to their *amlas* or subordinates who usually maltreated the tenants. The tenants on their hand found indigo cultivation irksome and uneconomic. Mahatma Gandhi had come to Champaran in 1917 to enquire into the grievances of the indigo *ryots* against the European planters. His enquiry was followed by wide agitations and the passing of an Act which did away with most of the inequities the indigo *ryots* were suffering from. This was practically the death knell of indigo cultivation and indigo planters. The planters started liquidating themselves and became gentlemen farmers. Most of them sold away their concerns which were purchased by local people

or the zamindars. The remnants of indigo cultivation could still be seen in the neglected and dilapidated indigo vats in many of the concerns scattered throughout the district. Another remnant is the lingering one or two European families in Monghyr. An example could be seen in a number of houses within the fort compound which belong to the family of Mr Dear. Mr Dear also owned a number of such indigo concerns. He came to Monghyr to supply sleepers when the Railway was being extended and stayed behind. He had given the first endowment which started the Sadar Hospital at Monghyr. He presented to Monghyr town the Clock Tower over the Eastern Gate of the Fort which was demolished by the Earthquake in 1934. The family had agreed to put up the Clock Tower again but for some reason or other the offer has not yet been implemented. One of Dear's daughters was married to General Murray who was Duke of Athlone. Murray gave up the title and preferred to live in Monghyr. All this is being mentioned to show the far reaching effects of the indigo planters. There is no doubt that the indigo industry played a great role in the economy of the district. Some of the descendants are still scattered in the district.

Among the other old industries that have declined but not died, mention may be made of the manufacture of gun.

The decline had set in because of superior steel and manufactured arms that were imported from abroad. Gun making in Monghyr does not appear to have gone beyond the state of cottage industries viewed from the present standard. This industry has always been State-controlled in some shape or other. The requirements of guns earlier were necessarily much less and Monghyr gun makers could supply only a moderate demand. But when the possession of a gun became a necessity not only for security purposes but also to indicate the status there was much more demand throughout the province and the supply could not have been met locally. The British administration brought in, as mentioned before, superior types of guns from abroad. Monghyr guns fell into disfavour and the price declined to an uneconomic level. Most of the gun makers and their progeny went out accepting jobs at Ichapore Gun Factory and under the military. Then came the Second World War and there was a sudden spurt of demand. Monghyr guns were in short supply. In the forties a Monghyr gun fetched a black market price of even 300 to 400 rupees. Strict administrative measures were clamped on and the produce was controlled. In the partition of 1947 many of the gun manufacturers who were mostly Muslims migrated to Pakistan. Now manufacture of guns in Monghyr is absolutely controlled by the State and an account is given elsewhere.

The decline of some other industries like the making of furniture, manufacture of leather goods, pottery, stone images, etc., is due to the fact that other places have developed these industries. Many of the leather manufacturers have gone away to Calcutta, Kanpur

and Lucknow where there are better avenues of employment, either on their own or in the tanneries. The indigenous paint industry has had a decline but there has been a revival in another way by the manufacture of vernilion and other paints at Luckheesara. Making of cheese had a decline but owing to the availability of faster railway communication now, much of the cheese is sent out from Khagana and Jamui area for Calcutta. This cheese cannot last and hence the necessity of quick transport. Manufacture of salt and saltpetre from saline soil has had a natural decline owing to availability of cheaper salt from elsewhere. The decline of river borne trade has partially contributed to the decline of some of the old industries. It may be mentioned here that regular and daily steamer service to Buxar on one side and Calcutta through Goalundo which is now in Pakistan has been stopped by Indian General Steam Navigation Co., since three years back. Monghyr was an important station for them.

SOURCES OF POWER SUPPLY

The industries that are run by power have either their own electricity plants or derive the power from the Electric Supply Companies or from the power generating stations maintained by the Government. The Railway Workshop at Jamalpur and the tobacco manufacturing factory of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Ltd at Basudeopur Monghyr have their own generating plants.

INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURES OF THE DISTRICT

The economy of Monghyr district is predominantly agricultural. According to the figures obtained at the census of 1951 barely 4 per cent of the population of the district are dependant for their means of livelihood upon production other than cultivation there being 21193 self supporting persons in the category having 84412 dependants.

It is peculiar that notwithstanding the general development of the industry during the century the proportion of the section of population dependant upon it has dwindled considerably. Thus whereas 13.6 per cent of the population were supported by industries in 1901 population being 20 68 804 the figures now stand at 4 per cent population being 30 lacs approximately. This diminution in the percentage is largely attributable to the sustained decay of skilled craftsmanship and handicrafts caused by the disappearance of the section of people to which they catered no less than by the free flow of the mass manufactured goods from abroad. The latter had a damaging effect on village and small scale industries.

Some of the industries faced a gradually decaying demand due to slow disappearance of a particular class of people, i.e., the aristocratic families of Nawabs and rulers, moneyed and leisured classes who proved to be the most reliable patrons of industries in the height of their power during the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries. With

gradual decline of such families the patronage to many industries was also lost. In the first half of the eighteenth century we see the East India Company maintaining troops in the fort of Monghyr, towards the close of this century we find Monghyr as merely a station for half pay and invalid officers and men, which all provide a proof for the ultimate annihilation of the one time booming industries the reminiscent of which we find in the notes by Miss Emily Eden in her 'Up the country' when she came to Monghyr in 1837. She was much struck by the inlaid tables and boxes "and there were the prettiest dolls furniture possible, tables and cane chairs and sofas footstools of such curious workmanship." The existence of a leisured aristocracy with the strength of a long purse naturally encouraged delicate workmanship and finely executed furniture, fabrics, luxury goods, steel products, etc.

The skill of the artisans of Monghyr and the excellence of their work had earned for Monghyr the epithet of "Tiny Birmingham." The selection of the site for the Workshop of the Eastern Railway at Jamalpur was to some extent based upon the availability of skilled personnel in the area.

It is sad that the industrial economy was allowed to be shattered due to shrinking demand. The fine craftsmanship in steel, wood or gold is now practically lost and the consumption of foreign goods has gained ground.

Even now, however, the contribution of industries to the total annual income of the district (as grossly computed by the Director Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Bihar) is considerably large, being to an extent of 9.85 crores or 19.6 per cent of the total as compared to 23.56 crores or 47 per cent of the total from agriculture, live stock and forestry together.

There are two large scale industries in the district, namely the factory of the Cigarette Company and the Jamalpur Railway Workshop which may account partially for this contribution.

EXISTING INDUSTRIES

The statement below gives a list of existing industries in the district —

I Major Industries—

- (1) Engineering Workshop—1 (2) Cigarette Manufacturing—1

II Medium and Small-scale—

- (1) Rice Mills—9, (2) Flour Mills—65, (3) Oil Mills—17, (4) Dal Mills—15, (5) Distillery—1, (6) Ice and Ice Cream—11, (7) Biri—15, (8) Housing—2, (9) Saw Mill and furniture Works—6, (10) Drugs and Pharmaceuticals—3, (11) Gun making—23, (12) General Engineering—6, (13) Foundries—5, (14) Domestic Utensils

Making—7, (15) Trunk and Suit-case Making—7
 (16) Agricultural Implements Making—3, (17)
 Bucket Making—1, (18) Mica—2, (19) Slate
 Stone—4, (20) Tiles Potteries—1, (21) Lime and
 Cement—1, (22) Vermilion and Colour Factories
 —2

III Cottage Industries—

- (1) Weaving, (2) Basket Making, (3) Rope and Mat Making, (4) Fire Works, (5) Paddy Husking
 (6) Sabai Grass Rope Making, (7) Indigenous Tobacco (Chewing and Smoking), (8) Khand sari, (9) Poultry Farming

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND MINING

The Eastern Railway Workshop at Jamalpur has been established in 1862 for the repairs and construction of rolling stock and plant connected with the Railway. It is now one of the biggest Locomotive Repair Workshops in India. The constituent shops have since far outgrown their original size and have been remodelled to meet the modern need of an industrial concern.

The shops are at present spread over an area of 133.12 acres properly fenced round of which 35.70 acres are roofed over. There are altogether 28 constituent shops subdivided into three distinct categories to facilitate manufacture of component parts and quicker repairing of locomotives, viz —

Finishing Shops—11, Manufacturing Shops—14, Ancillary Shops—3 (Progress and Planning Sections including Government and Tin plate Section)

In the Manufacturing Shops two iron foundries and one brass white metal foundry cast all ferrous and non ferrous engine components and other articles required for use by the railways, the most important of the ferrous materials cast are the D O plates and the Engine cylinders. Almost 90 per cent of the Eastern Railway's needs in respect of D O plates and almost 100 per cent needs in respect of cylinders of the Eastern and other railways are met by the materials fabricated in these shops.

In the Finishing Shops the different engine components fabricated in the manufacturing shops are properly machined and made ready for use. Besides these, materials required for consumption by other departments are also finished for use. The periodical and intermediate repairs of locomotives are also carried out by the Erecting and Boiler Shops. During 90 years of their eventful life, these constituent shops have treated all overhauled approximately 30,000 engines for periodical hospitalisation with major ailments in their constituent set up. The total number of engines treated for ailments through intermediate repairs during

the period is in the neighbourhood of 11,000. The cost of overhaul of engines is in the vicinity of Rs. 10 lacs a month. This is not a small achievement specially in view of the fact that this rate of outturn was uniformly maintained during the two most critical periods once in 1934 after the terrible Bihar Earthquake and the other in 1947 after the political upheaval resulting from the unfortunate partition of the country and the resultant interchange of staff, which meant some depletion of the technical staff. During the Second World War this factory was fully employed for manufacture of Ordnance articles. Approximately, 500 locomotives undergo repairs annually.

The Rolling Mill turns out re-rolled bars of different sections required for use in the workshop while the Bolt and Nut Shops turn out bolts and nuts required by the different departments of the railway. The casting and finishing of 65 tons annual block of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works in the year 1951 in this workshop has been acclaimed to be a land-mark in the history of Indian Foundries casting heavy materials. The accent in the different sections has always been to modernise and catch up the latest results of research. At the present day cost, the total investment is of the order of Rs. 15 crores and the annual turnover is approximately Rs. 4.5 crores, of which Rs. 1.5 crores is the wage bill.

The motive power for running the entire series of component shops is supplied by the Railway's own Electrical Power House of the capacity of 8300 K. W. transmitted through 911 nos. of motors of 9,468 H. P. situated within the four walls of the workshops.

The average number of workmen employed is little over 14,000 including supervising and administrative staff. The wages paid to the manual workers vary from Rs. 35 to Rs. 130 a month excluding dearness allowance. The per capita earning of a worker in the year 1950 was over Rs. 96 per month including dearness allowance.

One of the important functions of this great workshop has been to turn out trained men of technical skill for various purposes and to suit different status. Apart from turning out a large number of men technically qualified for various branches of trades, the concern gives training to young men to hold responsible superior charges in the Railways, Steel Works and other concerns.

A fully equipped 120-bedded hospital including a modern X-ray plant is also maintained by the Railway at Jamalpur to cater for the needs of the staff. Besides these the majority of the supervising and administrative staff have been provided with Railway quarters while workmen have been provided with free transport from their house to the workshop. For this the Railways have provided special trains commonly known as Cooly Trains between Sultanganj in the east and Kajra in the west. The trains run very frequently and

the Railway workers use them for coming to Jamalpur and going back to their villages. There is a well equipped canteen for the workers. The Jamalpur shops have been chosen for the manufacture of steam travelling cranes by the Railway Board for manufacture of two cranes per month beginning from October, 1961.

MICA MINES AND OTHER MINERALS

The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) mentions as follows —

“The south of the district contains part of the Bengal mica producing area, which roughly coincides with a great belt of schists and associated gneissese granite some 12 miles broad and about 60 miles long, which stretches from Bendi in Hazaribagh district through the south eastern corner of the Gaya district north eastwards to near Nawadih (Jhajha) on the East Indian Railway in Monghyr. Here there are six mines at work at Burhia Mahigam, Srikrishna, Ganda Sahaja Pubari and Bhuklo in thana Jhajha, and at Bichway in thana Sikandra. The average yield during the five years ending in 1924-25 was about $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons, as compared with nearly $14\frac{1}{2}$ tons in the previous quinquennium the decline being attributed chiefly to the product being outclassed by that of the Hazaribagh mines. In 1924 the outturn was 10 tons and the total number of employees was 315. The men employed are local residents who come daily from their homes in the adjoining villages. Wages range from 5 to 6 annas daily for men (averaging $5\frac{1}{2}$ annas), and are 3 to 4 annas for women and 2 annas a day for children. The largest mines are at Bhukle, where there are six excavations, varying in depth from 9 to 69 feet and at Mahigam, where there are six excavations of 6 to 30 feet. The process of mining is of a primitive character. The mica is generally discovered at the exposed out crop of a pegmatite vein on a hill face and is followed from ‘book’ to ‘book’ by underhand stopping, which results in tortuous work like holes. The whole material extracted, consisting of mica rubbish and underground water, is brought to the surface by a string of coolies working hand over hand on rudely constructed bamboo ladders.

There are some other mica mines not being worked at present which belong to the Maharaja of Gidhaur. These are to be found in mauza Bihara. Not far from the slate quarries of Dharahara is a hill of quartzose granite or mile stone grit, the stone extracted from which is utilised for grindstones. Lime is also exported from

Monghyr in considerable quantities. The coarsest kind is made from *kankar* or nodular lime stone, which appears to have been washed from the lime stone formations of the Himalayas and deposited all over Bihar during the oscillation of the rivers by which it is traversed. The stone is burnt in kilns in order to expel the carbolic acid gas, and the residue is collected and sold at a low price. The best lime, however, is made from the shells of fresh water molluscs, which are found in great abundance in the marshes".

The present state of mica industry in Monghyr is not very bright. It may be mentioned here that Hazaribagh district which produces the bulk of mica in India is also not faring well. There are several reasons for the decline. Several other countries abroad have started exploiting their mica resources. Mica has very little consumption within India and the bulk of mica produce in India has got to be exported. Indian mica industry earned some notoriety during the month of stock piling of the mica by countries abroad when Korea War broke out. Indifferent quality mica had been exported. Years after when the exported mica was sought to be used this fact came out. Naturally there has been an allergy abroad against the use of Indian mica. There is also a considerable waste owing to the employment of crude methods.

SLATE QUARRIES INDUSTRY.

The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 has the following :—

"The following account of the slate quarries of Monghyr is given by Prof. V. Ball in the *Economic Geology of India*: 'In the transition rocks of the Kharagpur Hills there is a band of slates from 6 to 12 feet thick which is traceable for many miles on the northern margin of the hills between Rishikund on the east and the Gaura and Amrasani *kols* on the west. Being for the most part vertical, it can only be worked by steps on the side of the hills, or by actual mines. For many centuries this slate has been worked by the natives more after the fashion ordinarily practised with reference to veins of metallic ore than to deposit of slate; the petty mines and quarries serve to produce an amount of slate which is equal to the demand, but the cost is certainly high. Its chief employment is for roofing instead of tiles, and a large quantity is so used at Monghyr and the neighbouring town; curry platters, etc., are also made from this stone to some extent'. This account was written many years ago before the quarries were developed.

There are now six slate quarries in the Kharagpur Hills at Maruk Sukhal, Tikai Garia Amrasani and Sitakobar. These quarries have been worked since 1864 by Messrs Ambler & Company who purchased the Basauni Indigo Factory from the late Mr Deare and converted it into a slate factory. The stone quarried is a slightly metamorphosed phyllite which gives excellent roofing slates and also produces fine slabs which are extensively used for electrical purposes. The slabs after being sawn and polished are black enamelled and are made up into switch boards fuse bases and knife switches. In 1914 the Company began to manufacture school slates which are prepared in a fully equipped workshop where the slates are polished and fitted with wooden frames. The output fluctuates the average outturn during the last five years was 2 554 tons of roofing slates and 156 988 school slates. The labour force employed in 1924 was 300 below ground and 107 above ground. Wages range from 4 to 10 annas a day but many labourers on piece work earn from a rupee to Rs 1 80 a day. In 1913 the concern was formed into a limited liability company under the name of Ambler's Slate and Stone Company Limited.

Now a days, Bariarpur and Dharhara are the two centres for this industry. There are a number of slate quarries in the Kharagpur hills near Dharhara railway station situated at villages Maruk Sukhal Tikai Garia and Amrasani. There are a number of contractors who take the hillocks on lease. Dynamite is used to blow off the hillocks. The pieces are soft when blown off. They are brought to size with the help of instruments. The slates are generally used for roofing in places of tiles. Of course some quantity of slates are polished and are made suitable for being used by the children for writing. Times have changed and people are not inclined to use slates for roofing. And as such this industry is on a decline.

At present there are two tiles manufacturing firms viz Messrs Bajrang Lal Nirmal Kumar Tiles Factory and Messrs Rajamjai Rai Onkarnal Tiles Manufacturing Factory at Jhijhi. The former is working well while the latter is lying closed. They manufacture flat bricks lock bricks and roofing tiles. Messrs Bajrang Lal Nirmal Kumar Tiles Factory have three kilns each having a column of 5 000 cubit feet. Five hundred and fifty tiles and 2 20 000 bricks can be burnt in each kiln. The tiles manufactured by this firm are in great demand in Ondal Asansol and in the local markets.

A capital of about Rs 60 000 has been invested in this industry.

TOBACCO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

In the year 1907 the Peninsular Tobacco Co., Ltd., selected Monghyr as a site to build a factory for the manufacture of cigarettes and smoking tobacco. The factory was built on the river Ganga at Basdeopur, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Monghyr station. The site was obviously selected with an eye to the river which was a great means of transport. It commenced manufacturing operations in the year 1908. In 1925 a printing factory was also set up for the printing of all materials used in connection with the tobacco industry. In addition to these a large saw mill has also been erected which fabricates all types of packing cases from the log to the finished articles.

The factories are equipped with a large power house for generating electricity but it is proposed eventually to obtain full power requirements from the Damodar Valley Corporation.

In 1934 considerable damage was suffered in the Great Bihar Earthquake as a result of which the factories were re-designed. The Cigarette Factory is equipped with modern and up-to-date machinery. One Cigarette Making Machine of the type in use is capable of producing up to 1,300 cigarettes per minute. The total strength of the workmen employed is approximately 2,500 (monthly as well as daily rated).

During the Second World War owing to orders of the Defence Forces, the Factories were worked on full double shifts. The cessation of these large orders, followed by the loss of the East Pakistan market as a result of Partition led to reduced requirements from the Factories and reversion to single shift working. During the year 1960 the Factories commenced partial double shift operation.

The following are some of the amenities in existence for the workers at the Monghyr factories :—

- (1) a fully equipped Labour Welfare Institute complete with stage, furniture, fans and cinema projector;
- (2) a large canteen with modern equipment;
- (3) a housing colony with houses of one or two rooms;
- (4) a hospital building on the bank of the Ganges, in addition to the Ambulance Room and creche within the Factory premises under qualified staff;
- (5) sports facilities;
- (6) two hundred and fifty school scholarships and fifty seats at the Basdeopur High School are provided for the children of workmen; in addition twelve college scholarships are awarded each year.

Many well known brands of cigarettes are manufactured at Monghyr as well as smoking tobaccos.

The principal raw materials used in the manufacture of cigarettes and packets are purchased in India from the following sources :—

Material.	Source of supply.
Unmanufactured leaf tobacco ..	Andhra State.
Cigarette paper and wrapping materials.	West Bengal.
Board for packets ..	Bihar.
Timber for cases ..	Bihar and Nepal Terai.
Tinplate ..	Bihar.

The Cigarette and Printing Factories were transferred in 1928 respectively to Tobacco Manufacturers (India), Ltd., and Printers (India), Ltd. In 1953 the Indian business of Tobacco Manufacturers (India), Ltd. and Printers (India), Ltd. was transferred to the Imperial Tobacco Co. of India, Ltd., so that the two factories now form part of that organisation.

CEMENT INDUSTRY.

Lime stone and Gihotia is available in abundance near about Simultala. A company styled as "Jhajha Cement and Industries, Ltd." opened a factory near the Jhajha railway station for the production of cement but closed down due to differences among the Directors.

The raw materials for this important industry provided by nature has been fixed for future exploitation.

SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES.

Luckeesarai and Khagaria are the two main centres for food industry. Both these towns have developed recently. There are as many as 13 rice, oil and flour mills, big or small, at Luckeesarai, viz. :—

- (1) Messrs. Chuni Lal Chandi Prasad Rice and Oil Mills;
- (2) Ganesh Mills; (3) Messrs. Bhagwati Mills; (4) Gauri Shanker Mills; (5) Hari Flour Mills; (6) Himat Lal Kanhaiya Mills; (7) Kailas Mills; (8) Luxmi Mills; (9) Mahabir Mills; (10) Mahasakti Mills; (11) Sita Ram Oil Mills; (12) Shiva Shanker Mills; (13) Kishun Mills.

Similarly Khagaria too has got a number of rice, flour and oil mills, viz.—

- (1) Messrs. Bajrang Rice and Oil Mills; (2) Nand Lal Parusram Das Oil Mills; (3) Mahabir Mills; (4) Jamuna Flour Mills; (5) Lakshmi Mills; (6) Krishna Oil Mills; (7) Sheo Flour Mills; (8) Annapurna Mills.

Besides these there are a few small rice and oil mills at Begusarai, Jamui, Jhajha and Sheikhpura. The condition of these mills naturally fluctuates with the availability of paddy. In War years they worked very well but with the end of the War, there came a period of scarcity and depression. There was shortage of foodgrains and as such controls were rigidly enforced. Paddy husking was closed as Government then had acquired monopoly on it.

The causes for the unsatisfactory condition of these mills may be enumerated as follows :—

At times of scarcity and the controls, the mills were not permitted to purchase paddy and sell rice and rationing of foodgrains was introduced. According to the monopoly scheme the Government used to purchase paddy and hand over the stock to the mills and the mills could only get milling charges. Later on some mills were permitted to purchase paddy on behalf of the Government, and they were asked to supply the polished rice to Government at the controlled rate. But due to the scarcity it was very difficult to get paddy at the rate fixed by the Government and the result was that almost all the mills were lying closed. Improvement in their condition is being noticed recently due to relaxation of State control and the more satisfactory crop in some *kharrif* season.

As regards oil mills the mills were dependant upon the oil-seeds imported from U. P. and as such they were to bear the cost of importing the oil-seeds which is about three times the cost of sending the oils by the mills of U. P. to these places.

Secondly there were restrictions on the sale of oil-cakes in Bihar while there was no such restriction in U. P.

A number of very small oil and flour mills, may be about 100, have been set up throughout the district. They have very little establishment cost, their establishments being run with one labourer or *mistry*. They work on a small scale and their markets are confined to small villages in the vicinity and neighbourhood *hats*. For a few years they worked very well and the markets of the big mills were captured by these mills. They generally do not maintain any account and therefore they are not registered for payment of sales tax and income-tax.

These mills generally have a *Chakki* and a pair of *Ghanies* with a small Diesel Oil Engine. These mills do not make out much profit due to their large number.

The industry employs about 500 workmen in this district and the total amount of working capital invested may be estimated at Rs 10 lakhs.

HOSIERY INDUSTRY

There is one hosiery factory at Monghyr which is now closed.

ICE AND ICE CREAM MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Khagaria is specially important for the manufacture of ice used for packing of fish. Ice cream is manufactured at Khagana Begusarai, Monghyr, Jamalpur and Jhajha. Ice cream is a new industry and each of the ice cream concerns caters to the local market. The quality is not good and sanitary arrangements poor.

A large quantity of fish is available in the rivers around Khagaria and this has led to the establishment of four ice factories at Khagana. A large quantity of fish packed in ice is daily exported to Darjeeling, Jalpatguri, Thakurganj and Calcutta from Khagana. The average production of ice at Khagaria is approximately 50 maunds per day and it varies according to the availability of fish in the surrounding water.

BIRI INDUSTRY

Biri making is one of the most important small scale industry of the district. Jhajha, Monghyr, Jamalpur and Sheikhpura are the main centres for this industry. There are quite a large number of factories employing more than 500 workers per day at Jhajha. Tobacco for the purpose is imported from Guzrat and Kendu leaves and other raw materials are available in plenty in the areas around Jhajha. The average production of *biri* at Jhajha area alone would be about 10 lacs per day. A considerable quantity of *biri* is exported to Calcutta from Jhajha by several concerns who have a number of branches at different places within the district. It is estimated that a total capital of about Rs 5,00,000 has been vested in this industry in the district and it gives employment to about 5,000 workers. The rate of wages to a worker is normally Re 1 per thousand of *biris*.

DISTILLERY

There is 1 distillery at Mankathia where country made wine and spirit are manufactured under the strict control of the State Government. The manufacture is carried on a large scale and at present the factory gives employment to an average of 45 workers. The capital invested in the business is estimated to be about rupees one lakh. It produces potable country spirit to the value of Rs 22,000

every month consuming 4 000 maunds of coal and 2 maunds of ammonium sulphate. The produce is consumed locally and in neighbourhood.

COLOURS AND CHEMICALS

The industry of preparing vermilion and different kinds of colour has made some progress at Luckeesarai.

They are manufactured by two fairly large concerns namely, Drolia Sindur Factory and Messrs C M Drolia Colour and Chemical Co. This is a new industry and still to be developed. The principal raw materials, viz., coaltar, dyes, boric acid and other chemicals are imported.

The process of manufacture is manual. Various chemicals are ground and mixed with coaltar dyes. The mixture is then dried in the sun. The material so manufactured are sorted out qualitatively and then picked.

In the colour industry alone there is an investment of nearly one and a half lac rupees. The average number of persons employed daily is 40.

In the vermilion industry there is an investment of Rs 2 00 000 and nearly 104 persons are employed daily.

"Abir" and "Alta" are the byproducts. The annual sale averages on Rs 3 50 000 lakhs. The products of this industry find ready market in Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

The history of gun manufacture may be traced from the days of Nawab Mir Kasim who had made Monghyr town as his head quarters. An authoritative account is given by Mr Collins in Arts and Industries in Bengal. According to him the industry had revived in 1890 and the average number of guns made annually was over 2,000. Formerly there were only five shops which sold guns at the surrounding *melas*. This was stopped under the Arms Act and the manufacture fell. A demand for cheap guns still continued and they were imported from abroad through Calcutta. The gun makers continued to protest to the authorities against the disabilities imposed on their trade and the import of foreign guns was requested to be stopped. In 1909 there were 25 shops and a S B B L Gun was sold for Rs 10 each. This was the cheapest rate ever reached at Monghyr. Barrels were made of cylindrical iron rods welded and bored together. All the other parts were hand made. The manufacturers later started using motor steering rods. Now they are using steam pipe rods which stand very high temperature. There has been little change in the method of manufacture but *mistri*s can make

a very good imitation of almost any gun. The locks are generally adorned with ornamentation in line with the English pattern.

After Partition in 1947 some of the gunsmiths were induced to go to East Pakistan on tempting pay to teach the art of manufacture of arms to the people there. If the manufacture of the arms would have been stopped, it might have resulted in an exodus of these gun makers either to Pakistan or to the manufacture of illicit arms. The State Government, therefore, decided to bring in all the manufacturers in the premises of the juvenile jail which was the historic armoury of the days of Mir Kasim, and especially suited for the storage of arms under the thick wall. The manufacture of arms has been controlled although the industry continues to be in the hands of private owners who number 29.

The output of each manufacturer varies as will be seen in the table below —

Name of firm.	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total	Hands employed at present
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tridip and Co	39	71	114	43	142	409	2
N P Sharma & Co	90	102	78	75	29	374	9
Muni Lal & Co						163	4
Bando and Sons	44	30	44	27		145	2
B P Sharma and Sons	30	43	141	46	14	274	4
Bajunath and Co	3	2	1	1	2	9	1
Mewa Lal and Sons	123	144	139	157	67	630	6
Sharma and Sons	65	37	36	33	4	175	
Delux Arms Co		12	69	79	25	185	
Horul and Co	118	61	30	86	59	354	7
Green and Co		2	12	12	7	33	
Royal Arms and Co	21	37	36	37	34	165	
Budhoo and Sons	2	61	35	60	46	204	3
Hazari and Sons						463	4
Pfizer and Sons	10	2	2	7		15	
Soukhi and Sons	84	229	196	304	228	1 041	10

Name of firm.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	Total.	Hands employed at present.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Louton and Co. ..	12	6	19	72	5	114	..
Oriental Arms and Co.	..	49	138	161	137	485	3
Hind Arms and Co. ..	4	10	2	6	9	31	3
The Monghyr Gun Manufacturers Co-operative Society.	..	6	19	2	1	28	1
Giri Lal and Co. ..	207	268	254	160	32	921	19
Nand Lal Sharma ..	..	..	..	..	..	247	3
B.S.A. Corporation ..	30	31	78	42	475	656	16
Giridhari and Sons ..	..	..	..	..	..	120	2
Banshidhar and Sons ..	12	17	20	55	42	152	4

Although it retains the character of a "Cottage Industries", it is more secure within the four walls of the jail and has been termed as "Monghyr Gun Factory" since the 18th June, 1948. The external appearance of the guns manufactured by the factory is excellent in spite of crude workmanship. The Home Ministry of India is interested in developing the local skill under rigid security conditions.

Apart from this, all confiscated fire-arms seized in various parts of the State are checked by a committee at Government level and those which are fit for repair are thoroughly renovated at the Monghyr Factory and then sold at reasonable rates. Those which are prohibited bore are sent to Government and the condemned arms are destroyed.

It is noteworthy that from 1953 up-to-date nearly 7,666 fire-arms of Monghyr-make have been sold. The largest sale so far was in 1949. There is a great slum in this industry now. There are at least 300 workers at present. The maximum price fetched by the manufacturers was Rs. 800 for a D. B. B. L. Hammerless gun. The lowest price reached so far is Rs. 40 for a S. B. B. L. Muzzle loading gun.

OTHER COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

From among the manufactures out of iron and steel are those of trunks, suit cases, domestic utensils and agricultural implements. Messrs Luxmi Mills and Messrs Duston Technical are engaged in casting mill machinery parts, while trunks and suit cases are manufactured by Messrs Khemka Trunk Factory, Monghyr and Messrs Luxmi Narayan Iron Works.

There are three concerns engaged in the production of indigenous medicines. The soaps made at Luckeesarai, Monghyr and Jamalpur are able to meet the local demands for washing and toilet soaps to some extent.

OTHER CONCERNS

According to the *District Census Hand Book of Monghyr, 1951*, there were 1,516 non textile establishments and 2,889 textile establishments which included 2 cotton ginning, clearing and pressing establishments and 5 silk spinning and weaving handlooms. An establishment is not defined, it will include even a 2 man concern. The textile establishments were mostly concentrated in all the thanas of Jamui subdivision, Gogri thana of Khagaria subdivision, Bachwara thana of Begusarai subdivision and Monghyr town.

Basket making is carried on mostly in Jamui and Chakai area, rope and mat making in Chakai and Lakhimpur area, fire works in Chakai area, Sabai grass rope making in Jhajha and Kharagpur, indigenous tobacco (chewing and smoking) in Bachwara, Dalsingsarai, Teghra and Begusarai area, Khandsari in Barbigha and Jamui area, poultry farming in Baro area and paddy husking throughout the district but greatly concentrated in Kharagpur area.

The goldsmiths of Kharagpur manufacture a special type of fish made of silver. This is used for decorative purposes and for presentation on the occasion of marriages.

There is one ceramic works started in October, 1953. The said industry started its works with the manufacture of crockery but now they have also taken up the manufacture of low tension insulators and are manufacturing porcelain electrical goods and some items of handicrafts like image, decorated flowers, pots, etc. About 75 workers are engaged in the said factory and the monthly output of finished products is about Rs 15,000 (rupees fifteen thousand) and the porcelain electrical goods manufactured are finding a good market in Calcutta.

There are about 30 printing presses in Monghyr district and most of them are situated in Monghyr and Jamalpur.

The statement below shows the capital structure, employment position and the volume of production of some of the important medium type industries of the Monghyr district.—

Name and nature of industrial concerns		Capital		
Name and the year of start	Nature of work	Fixed Capital	Working Capital	Total
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs	Rs.	Rs.
M/s Bihar Chemical Industries (P), Ltd, Monghyr, (1937)	Production of medicines and chemicals	20,536	1,04,254	1,24,790
M/s Droha Sindur Factory, Lakhisarai, Monghyr (1945)	Manufacture of <i>Sindur</i> and <i>Abir</i> .	28,097	1,90,659	2,19,056
M/s S C M Droha, Colour and Chemical Co, Lakhisarai, Monghyr (1944)	Manufacture of colour and chemicals	85,842	2,43,186	3,29,028
M/s Monghyr Gun Manufacturing Industry, Monghyr, Jail area, Monghyr. (1947)	Gun Manufacturing	1,15,000	2,10,000	3,25,000
M/s Lakshmi Mills, 2, Level Crossing, Monghyr (1935)	Products of iron and steel	86,000	30,000	1,16,000
M/s Duston Technical, Betwan Bazar, Monghyr (1938)	Products of iron and steel	77,863	40,000	1,26,877
M/s Lakshmi Narayan Timber and Iron Manufacturing Co., Naya Bazar, Lakhisarai, Monghyr (1937)	Products of wood and iron	23,000	25,000	48,000
M/s Parmeshwar Prasad, Monghyr (1954)	Saw milling and furniture	25,000	15,000	40,000
M/s Hiralal Dwarka Maharaaj, Lakhisarai, Monghyr (1953)	Saw mill ..	10,000	2,000	21,000
M/s Biswantha Saw Mills and Furniture Makers (1950)	Saw milling and furniture	3,500	1,000	4,500

Employment				Production			Sale
Skilled workers	Unskilled workers	Supervisory staff	Annual payment	1951	1953	1956	Per cent
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Rs				
5	18	12	33,051	-	-	-	00
2	52	16	38,505	1,07,343	1,33,630	1,83,732	05
26	25	10	23,857	2,16,402	2,09,753	26,186	99.7
250	300	..	3,60,000	6,00,000	3,75,000	4,50,000	100
5	2	1	3,700	84,250	22,444	40,280	05
5	5	-	2,243	22,195	10,200	7,600	-
5	-	..	3,600	64,000	45,000	8,000	00
14	5	1	12,930	..	..	18,000	100
2	2	-	2,520	..	..	-	..
1	2	..	1,800	..	..	..	..

tanning it was suggested that there was good prospect for the setting up of small tanneries in Monghyr district. Regarding gun manufacture the recommendation was that arrangements may be made for the supply of graded raw materials and suitable machinery to enable the gun manufacturers to ensure durability, resistance, precision and accuracy, qualities essential in an arm. It was also suggested that the feasibility of setting up a testing centre for guns at Monghyr will also be technically examined. The Report of the Investigation Team published in August, 1959 is a useful document. It may also be mentioned that the Team thought that there should be no dearth of skilled labour in the district.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION

The industries of the district require both skilled and unskilled labour. Most of the unskilled labourers employed in different factories come from within the district itself. The supply of skilled personnel comes from not only neighbouring districts but also from outside India, specially in the supervisory staff. There are organised labour unions in different industries but the unions of the Imperial Tobacco Co., Ltd. and the Indian Railway Workshop at Jamalpur are remarkably well organised and influential. Following is the list of registered labour unions in Monghyr district till 31st March, 1959 —

Serial no	Name of the union	No of Registration	Date of Registration	No of members
1	Monghyr Tobacco Manufacturing Workers Union, Basdeopur, Monghyr	68	18th September, 1945	2 733
2	Hospital Majdoor Union Monghyr, Socialist Party Office, Monghyr	220	19th December, 1947	31
3	Monghyr District Press Workers' Union T o p k h a n a Bazar, Monghyr	334	18th February, 1949	98
4	The Electric Supply Workers' Panchayat, Monghyr	335	19th February, 1949	406
5	Municipality Harijan Karmchari Congress Mohanpur, Jamalpur, Monghyr	345	2nd March, 1949	190
6	East India Railway Ministerial Association Sadar Bazar, Jamalpur, Monghyr	362	9th May, 1949	
7	Jamalpur Municipal Employers' Union Jamalpur Monghyr	369	11th June, 1949	

Serial no.	Name of the union	No of Registration.	Date of Registration.	No of members.
8	Thana Bari Majdoor Congress, Jhajha, Monghyr.	488	25th January, 1951 ..	..
9	Motor Karmchari Sangh, Shri Krishna Sewa Sadan, Chowk Bazar, Monghyr.	496	22nd March, 1951 ..	..
10	Monghyr Biri Workers' Union, Betwan Bazar, Monghyr.	527	13th September, 1951	..
11	Bihar Chemical Workers' Union, Topkhana Bazar, Monghyr.	538	31st January, 1952 ..	..
12	The All India Railway Ministerial Staff Federation, Jamalpur, Monghyr.	568	3rd November, 1952 .	..
13	The Begusarai Thana Tomtom Majdoor Union, Post Begusarai, Monghyr.	578	7th January, 1953 ..	..
14	Begusarai Biri Majdoor Union, Post Begusarai, Monghyr.	577	7th January, 1953 ..	..
15	District Board Press Workers' Union, Bari Bazar, Monghyr.	590	23rd March, 1953 .	..
16	Begusarai Scavengers' Union, Begusarai, Monghyr	600	4th May, 1953 ..	.
17	Sheikhpura Palladar Majdoor Union, Moti Chakdiwan, Post Sheikhpura, Monghyr.	606	5th June, 1953 .	..
18	Mankatha Distillery Majdoor Panchayat, Village Balgudar, Post Mankatha, Monghyr.	660	23rd March, 1954 ..	..
19	Monghyr Municipal Safai Majdoor Union, Choti Mogal Bazar, Monghyr.	689	4th November, 1954..	..
20	Biri Majdoor Union, Jamui, Monghyr.	702	2nd January, 1954 ..	..
21	Monghyr Municipal Employees' Association, Monghyr Municipality, Bari Bazar, Monghyr.	703	9th January, 1955 .	..
22	Monghyr Zila Bari Majdoor Union, Babu Bank, Jhajha, Monghyr.	747	30th September, 1955	..
23	Lakshmi Mill Workers' Union, Topkhana Bazar, Monghyr.	780	31st May, 1956 .	..
24	Mehthar Majdoor Union, Jamui, Post Jamui, Monghyr.	781	16th July, 1956 ..	..

Serial no.	Name of the union	No of Regis- tration.	Date of Registration.	No of members.
25	Thana Bari Majdoor Union, Sheikhpura, Monghyr	791	11th August, 1956	
26	Monghyr District Board Employees Association, Monghyr	819	4th January, 1957	
27	Byabsai Karmchari Sangh, Sheikhpura, Monghyr	820	8th February, 1957	
28	Byabsai Karmchari Sangh (Shop Assistant Union) Shah Zuhair Road, Purabsara, Monghyr	824	19th February, 1957	
29	Biri Majdoor Sangh, Gogri Jamalpur, Monghyr	843	27th December, 1957	
30	Biri Majdoor Union, Asarganj, Monghyr	845	3rd February, 1958	
31	Lakhsarai Rang and Sindur Majdoor Union, Purani Bazar, P O Lakhsara, Monghyr	875	8th November, 1958	

TRUCK OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, MONGHYR

There is a Truck Owners' Association at Monghyr which manages the transport of goods by the public trucks. It works midway between the parties requiring goods to be transported and those transporting it at a certain remuneration. It is an institution run by certain interested individuals with financial responsibilities upon their own shoulders. The Association takes upon itself the responsibility to see that the goods so booked reach safely to their destinations. But for this kind of service rendered, the Association charges 3 per cent of the net transport charges payable, from the amount to be received by the owners of trucks.

EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATION

Welfare of Industrial Labour

The Labour Officer under the Commissioner of Labour, Bihar, looks after labour welfare work in the different industrial establishments. Housing condition, recreational, educational and sanitary facilities for the workmen have to be particularly attended to. The employees have to be provided with canteens, hospitals and dispensaries and other requirements under Factories Act. Provisions under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 safeguard the interest of the workers employed under such a schedule employment as in a motor

rice, oil and *dal* mills, *biri* manufacturing, and local bodies. The Minimum Wages Act has also been made applicable to the workers employed in agricultural operation but not yet implemented. The Act has been enforced for the workers of the Monghyr Municipality. The Local Self-Government Department of the Government of Bihar fixed the basis of minimum wages payable to the employees of different municipalities of the State. The municipalities at Monghyr and Jamalpur also adhere to that basis since 1951. It resulted in an increase in the municipal workers pay packet. Workers of both these municipalities are given bonus for good work. The workers engaged in rice, *dal* and oil mills have also been brought under the purview of this Act. The workers have been divided into two categories, one monthly rated and the other daily. For the monthly rated workers the minimum pay is Rs. 40 per month and for daily rated workers Re. 1-6-0 per day. The State Government have fixed minimum rates of wages for the workers employed in *biri* industry. In the district headquarters excepting Monghyr and Bhagalpur it is Rs. 2-4-0 per thousand. At Monghyr the minimum rate is Re. 1-14-0 per thousand and in rural areas it is Re. 1-9-0 per thousand. It is reported that the enforcement of minimum rates of wages in respect of *biri* industry has not been very encouraging. However, on representation from employers the minimum rates of wages was once revised.

For the workers employed in the motor transport industry the minimum rates of wages have been fixed. For a driver this is Rs. 65 per month and for a conductor Rs. 45. Also the employers pay to the workers a *khoraki* at the rate of Re. 1 per night spent out of headquarters.

There are a number of Acts, Central and State that go to the benefit of workers. The provisions and rules framed under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Trade Union Act, 1926, Employment of Children Act, 1933, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Workmen's Protection Act, 1948, State Employment Insurance Act, 1948, Factories Act, 1948, Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, etc., have been endeavouring to safeguard the interests of workers from different angles. With the enforcement of Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953 and Weekly Holiday Act, the employers have been enforced to provide certain facilities and a compulsory weekly rest to their workers. In the post-independence period rapid legislation on important labour laws have much improved the status of the workers.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

INDIGENOUS BANKING AND CREDIT FACILITIES

The agencies for the supply of rural credit are Government, Co-operative Societies, moneylenders relatives traders and commission agents and commercial banks. Among these agencies the moneylenders dominate the rural credit, and the credit supplied by the Government as well as through Co-operative Societies and other agencies is almost insignificant. The moneylenders or the indigenous bankers charge high rate of interest than other agencies but still they are popular in rural areas because (i) they are easily approachable, (ii) borrowers have not to undergo any red tapism and (iii) they have not to spend any money for obtaining loans. Besides, the village *Mahajans* and *Sahukars* who lend money, sometimes advance loans without any landed security and so the borrower has no fear of attachment of property. But while these indigenous bankers are the most important constituent of the rural credit machinery, they exploit the rural borrowers and charge exorbitant rate of interest.

To safeguard the interest of the borrowers the Moneylenders Act 1938 is in force to some extent which checks the rising tendency of interest.

In this district there were 1,652 licensed moneylenders at the close of the year 1956-57 and the amount of loans advanced by them were as follows —

	Urban area	Rural area
	Rs	Rs
(a) With security	6 52 016	7 55 294
(b) Without security	1 09 960	7 29 084

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES AND BANKS

In Monghyr district there are three Central Co-operative Banks at Monghyr (Jamalpur), Jamui and Begusarai. The area of operation of the Monghyr Central Co-operative Union Ltd. is extended to the whole of Monghyr subdivision. The area of operation of Jamui Central Co-operative Bank is extended to the Jamui subdivision but that of Begusarai Central Co-operative Bank is extended to Begusarai and Khagaria subdivisions of the district. Previously there was a Central Co-operative Bank at Haveli Kharagpur but this Bank was amalgamated with the Monghyr Central Co-operative Union, Ltd., from 1st July 1956.

The main activity of these Central Co-operative Banks is to provide agricultural finance to their affiliated Co-operative Societies, which in their turn finance their agriculturist members as short term and medium term loans for productive purposes. Short term loans are advanced to agriculturist members to meet their current production needs such as seeds manures etc. These loans are made available to them at short notice and are repaid within 9 to 12 months and in exceptional cases like cultivation of sugarcane within 18 months. Medium term loans are advanced for purchase of live stock, agricultural implements, etc., for a period of 3 to 5 years. Rate of interest on all kinds of loans is $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum from the ultimate borrower, i.e., the cultivators. Loans are advanced on the security of the landed properties of the members but such securities are not required for loans below Rs 100. Personal securities are taken in all cases. Loans are also available from Co-operative Societies to its non agriculturist members such as artisans up to Rs 100 as working capital. In very exceptional cases loans up to and exceeding Rs 1,000 are advanced on the prior approval of the Circle Assistant Registrar.

The following figures will show the number of different types of Co-operative Societies and Banks in the district —

Types of Societies	No
1 Central Co-operative Banks	3
2 Primary Credit Societies and Multi purpose Co-operative Societies	813
3 Consumers' Co-operative Stores	16
4 Teachers' Co-operative Stores	1
5 Vikash Mandal Societies	8
6 Fishermen's Co-operative Societies	11
7 Weavers' Co-operative Societies	20
8 Urban Societies	4
9 Large-size Societies	16
10 Oilmen Co-operative Societies	10
11 Industrial Societies	2
12 Sarvodaya Societies	2
13 Housing Societies	1
14 Other types	

The following figures will show the present position of the Central Co-operative Banks of the district —

Particulars	Monghyr Central Co-operative Union	Jamui Central Co-operative Bank	Begusarai Central Co-operative Bank
1 Paid up share capital	88 551	15 294	17 680
2 Reserve fund	5 878	42 550	71 172
3 Borrowed capital	2 89 345	1 00 908	3 91 286
4 Working capital	4 19 274	1 58 752	3,21 070
5 Loan advanced to Co-operative Societies	1 56 945	83 725	1 69 699

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES THROW CONSIDERABLE LIGHT ON THE WORK AND PROGRESS OF THESE CO OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

MULTI PURPOSE CO OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE DISTRICT OF MONGHYR

	Number of Societies		Number of Members		Loans paid during the year to individuals			Loans repaid during the year			Loans due at the end of the year	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Monghyr Central Co operative Bank	144	103	10,314	8,421	7,416	14,516	12,026	16,295	70,446	40,278		
Monghyr Central Co operative Bank Branch Haweli Kharagpur (Amalgamated in Monghyr Central Co operative Bank in 1957)	25	17	941	403		4,576	2,681	3,711	8,432	7,534		
N E S Block Monghyr		23		3,011		19,091		9,516		32,503		
N E S Block, Haweli Kharagpur		17		573		11,130		732		12,654		
N L S Block, Haweli Kharagpur (Large size)		1		25								
N F S Block Haweli Kharagpur (Non affiliated)		2		79								
N E S Block, Sheokhipura		39		1,589		49,391		1,605		32,533		
N E S Block Barbiga	18	55	432	1,520		53,892		28,166		62,588		
C D Block, Barbiga	23		580		7,174		8,355		30,605			
Jamun Central Co operative Bank	47	59	808	1,294	10,339	31,422	8,007	12,841	35,065	62,414		

[illegible]

The co-operative movement has made steady progress in the district. There has been continuous increase in the number of Co-operative Societies of all types and in their membership. The total number of families brought under co-operative fold is 33,820. From the foregoing details it will appear that co-operative movement is not only helping in providing agricultural finance but also in other field of activities, like supply of consumers' goods, chemical fertilizers, handloom industries and other important activities.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

In the district of Monghyr there are no joint stock companies registered under the Indian Companies Act except a few limited companies like Bihar Chemical Industries, Ltd., Monghyr, Jamalpur Ice Company, Ltd., and the Lakhisarai Electric Supply Company which has now been taken over by the State Government. Besides there are a few limited type of Co-operative Stores registered under the Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Societies Act of 1935. Most of the Co-operative Stores are defunct except a few which are dealing in supply of consumers' goods and sale of the text books published by the Bihar Text Book Committee.

BANKS

There are four banks at Monghyr, viz., the State Bank of India, the Bank of Bihar, the Central Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank. At Begusarai, Khagaria and Lakhisarai there are pay offices of the State Bank of India. At Khagaria there is a Branch Office of the Central Bank of India. At Jamui there is no Commercial Bank. As has already been discussed before, there are Central Co-operative Banks at Monghyr (Jamalpur), Begusarai and Jamui.

The main activities of the Commercial Banks at Monghyr and other places are (1) to accept deposits of all kinds and (2) to make advances against Government securities, shares, foodgrains, etc. These banks accept Current Deposits, Savings Bank Deposits and Fixed Deposits from six months to one year. They also issue Cash Certificates for three years. Rate of interest on each type of deposit varies according to the nature of deposits. These banks make advances against securities, Government Promissory notes, etc. Advances are made mostly against foodgrains, cotton piece goods, sugar, *kirana* goods, oil of various kinds. Banks keep certain margins which vary from commodity to commodity according to their quality. Banks also make advances against their own deposit receipts, e.g., Fixed Deposit and Cash Certificates keeping a margin of about 10 per cent. Besides, these banks also transact other banking business like collection of bills, sale of demand and drafts and telegraphic transfer on their own offices for their parties. They also purchase bills on behalf of their parties.

LIMITED COMPANIES AND INSURANCE COMPANIES

The number of limited companies in the district of Monghyr is very few

As regards Insurance Companies, there were agents of almost all Insurance Companies at Monghyr and other important places of the district. The total business covered by all Insurance Companies in the district before their nationalisation was about 40 lakhs

After the nationalisation of Life Insurance Companies in 1956 insurance business was so canalised as to facilitate its being run through an institution, Life Insurance Corporation, by name. This corporation, as in other districts, has got its sub branch office at Monghyr, which was given start in November, 1956. There are thirteen field officers working in this sub branch office, in which one is posted at Khagaria, one at Jamui, one at Kalyanpur and one at Haveli Kharagpur while the rest of them are stationed at Monghyr with an allotted area of the district in their charge. The field officers who have an area in their charge, work through the appointed agents who are distributed over the villages in their area. These village agents are an important link in the whole system. They secure business through direct contact with the people. These agents are on commission basis calculated on the premiums on the policy.

The sub branch at Monghyr sends up the proposals to the Head Office at Patna for final approval. Then at Patna office when the required first premium is paid and all the formalities fulfilled, the policy becomes a running one and the sub branch office concerned is informed. The sub branch office works as the link between the policyholders and the Corporation's Head Office, recommending policies forwarding complaints from the policy holders and dealing with any kind of discrepancies.

In Monghyr, life insurance business has been expanding rapidly, which is shown by the fact that in 1957 policy worth Rs 75 00 000 were placed, out of which those worth Rs 63,00,000 were completed. For the year 1958 up to 2nd June 1958, the position is presented by the table below —

	No of proposals	Amount
		Rs
Introduction	500	19 00 000
Acceptance	463	17,41,000
Completion	383	12,16,000

The statement above gives an amount of Rs 12,16,000 worth of policies having been completed during the six months in the beginning of the year 1958, which amount appears to be less and

whose cause may be assigned to the apparent drought and scarcity in the whole district. But the flow of business is nonetheless normal, and as usual it is expected that during the rest of the months, the business may well be covered as in the years before, because it was in only one month of December, 1957 that the Corporation got completed policies worth Rs 20,00,000

Now the Corporation has prepared a new scheme known as "Janta Policy Scheme". Under this scheme one can take out a minimum policy of Rs 250 for an annual premium of Rs 12 or more. This new scheme is suitable for the people living in rural and industrial areas.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

Before independence there was no organised way of giving State assistance to farmers for the development of agriculture. State assistance for irrigation was very meagre.

Statement showing the amount disbursed yearwise under the head "Agricultural Land Improvement and Industries" from 1947-48 to 1956-57

Year	Agricultural	Land Improvement	Industries
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1947-48	9 425 00	8 000 00	
1948-49	1,26,126 00	12,800 00	
1949-50	2 39 916 00	2,39 905 00	
1950-51	14,59,750 00	1,94,902 44	
1951-52	53,99,574 00	81,783 00	
1952-53	47,69,343 00	88,893 00	
1953-54	27,41,060 00	41,466 00	
1954-55	40,93,217 00	93,595 00	
1955-56	10,12,785 00	88,290 00	1,000 00
1956-57	8,16,070 00	44,814,00	1,700 00

Many major irrigation schemes have also been taken up by the Government during First Five Year Plan. Some of them have been completed and some are under execution.

After the Act* came into operation five persons of Monghyr district were granted loans from the Department of Industries, Patna, machine, expansion of manufacturing business, etc. Normally a sum to the tune of Rs 98,000. The largest amount was a loan of Rs 50,000. A few small amounts of money had been granted to a few persons of Monghyr for purposes like purchase of sewing of Rs 10,000 is allotted annually to Monghyr district under this head.

* Bihar State Aid to Industries Loan Act, 1956

TRADE AND COMMERCE

The Census Report of 1951 mentions that in about a dozen important towns of Monghyr district, out of a population of 2,67,117, about 37,754 people or 14.1 per cent of the population are engaged in commerce. The corresponding figures for the rural area of the district derived out of a sample survey of villages inhabited by 2,58,314 people, are only 9,822 or slightly less than 4 per cent of the population. Although there is a great deal of difference between the conditions that obtain in North and South Monghyr, the percentage of people dependent on trade and commerce does not seem to vary materially.

The chief commercial classes are Agrawalas, Agraharis, Marwaris and the Banias. Agrawalas are engaged usually in banking, trade and other allied occupations, such as petty trading in gold and jewellery, moneylending, etc. The poorer members among the Agrawalas usually act as servants and brokers. Agraharis are tradesmen rather than bankers, taking to such occupations as selling rice, wheat, and *kirana* goods. Marwaris are a well known and form an enterprising commercial community. They are both bankers and traders. Banias are usually petty traders in cloth and grains, and they are the people that usually man the groceries as well as the familiar *pan wala's* shop at street crossings.

With the growth of industries, the pattern of imports and exports has also undergone a parallel transformation and it is no longer the pure agrarian economy exporting only raw materials and importing finished goods. Coal has to be imported for running factories, such as the Railway Workshop at Jamalpur, the Cigarette Factory at Monghyr, the Gun Factory at Monghyr and so on. Iron and steel machineries, etc., have to be imported for the same purpose. Among other imports are salt, refined sugar, piece goods, cement, cotton yarn, kerosene oil, spices, cotton and woollen cloth, foodgrains, fodder, hardwares and utensil and also some tobacco. Small quantities of quality wood are also imported. It is difficult to get the correct statistics of import and export through various channels.

Agricultural product such as foodgrains, oil-seeds, gram and pulses, wheat, mustard, chillies, etc., are important items of export. A certain quantity of tobacco leaves, raw sugar (*gur*) and *ghee* are also exported. Slate from Kharagpur hills, *khas* grass, *mahua*, *lathis* made out of bamboos, mica, hides and skins, silica, saltpetre, the leaves of the sal trees, *sabai* grass and fish are exported from different areas.

Monghyr has not remained unaffected by the gradual emergence of an industrial pattern in the State as a whole and some industrial products have come to occupy a significant position in the export

trade of the district. Among such items are *sindur* or vermilion which is manufactured at Lakhisarai, cigarettes which are manufactured at Monghyr, slates manufactured at Dharhara (Jamalpur), guns produced at Monghyr, *biris* and Raniganj tiles produced at Jhajha, ceramic potteries and low tension electric insulators manufactured at Mallehpur in Jamui. Country wine is exported from Manhatha. Export of handloom cloth takes place from Gogri and Jamui.

Among the trade centres of the district, the importance of Monghyr is due to its being the district headquarters, in addition to the location here of the tobacco manufacturing industry and the gun factory. Jhajha is an important centre for tobacco trade, particularly *biris* and *biri* leaves. Maheshri and Chakai are important for mica. Lakhisarai is trade centre for vermilion and colours as well as foodgrains. Barahiya is, however, the largest trade centre for foodgrains in the district, though Barbigha and Tarapur Kharagpur also have some importance in this sphere. In the northern portion of the district, a considerable volume of trade in chillies is carried on at Teghra and Barauni in the Begusarai subdivision. Gogri-Jamalpur in Khagaria subdivision has become an important trade centre largely due to its geographical situation which enables it to supply different places such as Parbatha, Chautham, Gogri and Bakhtiarpur. Khagaria itself is another important trade centre dealing with grains, fish, *ghee*, butter and cheese. Both Khagaria and Gogri-Jamalpur are situated on the banks of river, the former on the Gandak and the latter on the Ganga. Communications are difficult in the northern portion of the district and hence the importance of rivers as channels of trade. This importance of the rivers in the north is also due to the fact that river Ganga intervenes between this area and the factories and manufacturing centres in South Monghyr. But the special reason for the importance of Khagaria as a trade centre is due to the fact that it serves as a supply base for the district of Saharsa and adjoining areas of Darbhanga. The geographical position, proximity to river and rail heads make Monghyr, Jamalpur, Khagaria, etc., rather important.

Among the important market places of the district are Monghyr and Jamalpur, both of which are regulated by municipalities. The market places of Khagaria, Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Barbigha are regulated by Notified Area Committee, and Union Committees look after the *bazars* of Gogri, Haveli Kharagpur, Jhajha and Jamui. The names of village markets would be far too many to recount, but important among them are Bariarpur, Sangrampur, Asarganj, Surajgarhia, Sheikhpura, Barbigha, Sikandra, Teghra, Barauni, Sahelpur Kamal and Simri Bakhtiarpur. Two important cattle markets in Monghyr are located at Mansurchak and Mukhiana Bazar in Bakhtiarpur. A third one which meets on every Monday

and Friday is at Tarapur. An important *hat* dealing with miscellaneous articles is held at Maghau in Bariarpur.

When fairs and *melas* are held the places in question become markets of no mean importance for the time being. And such *melas* are fairly numerous in Monghyr. The most important *mela* is held at the time of Dashera in Jamalpur and Monghyr, though there are scattered fairs in other parts of the district also. The number of people who come to have "Darshan" of Mother Goddess runs into hundreds of thousand and the fair assumes gigantic proportions in and about the town of Monghyr. A two-day fair is also held on Kartik Purnima day at several places, notable among them being Kashtaharni Ghat, Sumaria Ghat, Chandi Asthan, Rasalpur, etc. An important fair is held on Maghi Purnima day at Sitakund, near Gangata. Among other fairs may be mentioned Basant Panchami Mela in Magh (January/February), Shivaratri Mela in Phalgun (February/March) and Bhado Purnima Mela in September, held in the same manner and more or less at the same places as Kartik Purnima and Maghi Purnima fairs. In the month of Shrivana (which corresponds to July/August of the Christian calendar) a fair takes place every Monday at Shiva Temple, Jamalpur. Another important fair is Rishikund Mela. This takes place every third year, in the "Malmas" for one month. And closely linked as these fairs are with the religious festivals and celebrations a certain amount of commercial implications are inherent in them.

There are about 1,000 registered retail dealers and about 250 registered wholesale dealers in the district of Monghyr. The whole sale trading is done mostly in commodities like foodgrains, cloth, sugar, tobacco, colour and vermilion, *kurana* goods, crockeries, *ghee*, butter, chillies, etc. Retail trading is of course done in articles too numerous to be mentioned. But the volume of trade is a thing that is practically impossible to determine, due to inadequacy of statistics, tax evasion and clandestine commerce. It would, however, be fair to assume that the amount of sales tax and other commercial taxes collected to give some indications regarding the trends in volume of trade and commerce. The amounts of sales tax collected in the district during the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 (for the first seven months only of the financial years) are Rs 12.42 lacs, Rs 13.60 lacs and Rs 12.82 lacs respectively and the same figures for the commercial taxes as a whole are Rs 16.55 lacs, Rs 18.95 lacs and Rs 18.71 lacs respectively. This indicates that the rise in the volume of trade and commerce seems to have been arrested during the current year, and this may be explained by the unusual drought and scarcity this year (1958).

Probably the same fact of scarcity and drought would be largely responsible for the fluctuation of the price level in the district, though the larger scheme of the country as a whole and the impact of the expenditure on the development plans has to be constantly

borne in mind The current price level of foodgrains has of course, borne the brunt of the impact of scarcity and crop failures, as would appear from the figures given below —

Commodity	Price per md.
	Rs
1 Paddy	16 25
2 Rice (coarse)	25 00
3 Rice (medium)	27 00
4 Wheat (white)	22 00
5 Wheat (red)	19 50
6 <i>Rahar dal</i>	20 00
7 <i>Masur dal</i>	23 50
8 <i>Khesari dal</i>	15 00
9 Maize	14 00
10 Gram	16 00
11 Mustard seed	36 00
12 Mustard oil	85 00
13 Groundnut oil	62 00
14 Linseed oil	54 00
15 Chillies	15 00
16 Potatoes	12 00
17 Salt	4 00
18 Sugar	36 00

No account of the trade and commerce of the district would be complete without the mention of the trade associations therein It is indeed regrettable that the organisation of these associations leaves very much to be desired Quite a number of them appear like mushroom growths and then disappear after a few years At present there are a number of trade associations which are not very old Among them are Monghyr Vyabsai Sanghi, Monghyr Tax Payers' Association, Galla-grain Beyopar Sanghi, Monghyr Hardware Merchants' Association and so on There are, however, two organisations that have some permanence and standing and they are Bullion Dealers' Association and Monghyr Truck Owners' Association There are other associations too such as Wholesale Cloth Merchants' Association, Biri Dealers' Association and so on

This is, of course, an age of transition and new lines are discernible. With the completion of the Mfokameh Bridge on the Ganga and the prospect of the oil refinery at Barauni there are bound to be changes and a number of subsidiary industries will come in and new trade centres will be formed and there will be newer trends in Banking, Trade and Commerce

CHAPTER VII.

COMMUNICATIONS.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION.

There does not appear to be much information available regarding the old time trade routes and highways and modes of conveyance in the period prior to the later Mohammedan period. The importance of the area now represented by the district of Monghyr in epic age when it formed a part of the kingdom of Anga assures that there must have been means of communication connecting this area with the other parts. The district is associated with many mythological stories. King Karna ruled over this part of the kingdom of Anga. Popular belief even today ascribes a particular tract within the fort area of Monghyr town passing by the name of "Karna Chowrah" to be seat of King Karna's kingdom. The extensive river front of the district assures a highly developed water-borne traffic in the olden days. The particular position of the town of Monghyr with the river Ganga enclosing it on three sides made it strategically important for establishment of the headquarters of a ruling dynasty. Centuries after, the Muslim king built a fort, which is at the place the river takes a bend, the ruins of which are yet standing to bear the testimony to the importance of the town. The bathing *ghat* in the fort area, known as the *Kastaharni ghat*, traces its origin according to the popular hearsay to the spot where Shri Ram Chandra on his return journey from Mithila to Ayodhya after his marriage with Sita halted with his consort to have a dip into the sacred water of the river to relieve themselves of the fatigue of the journey.

Sitakund near Monghyr town, the Shiva temple at the neighbouring township of Sultanganj, the religious *mela* at Simaria *ghat* are factors which pre-suppose a flow of traffic both by road and river.

Till the middle of nineteenth century, the chief highway of commerce and the main routes by which the district of Monghyr was connected with other parts of India, were the river Ganga and the road running along its southern bank. Local tradition ascribes the latter to the Emperor Sher Shah, and it is known to have been the highway along which Mohammedan armies passed in their marches to and from Bengal and North-West India. The Ganga, however, appears to have been used far more by travellers, several of whom have left accounts of the journey up and down the river. From their accounts and from other sources it is learnt how great the cost of travelling, whether by road or river used to be. Travellers by road from Calcutta, a distance of 301 miles had to pay no less than Rs. 406 out of which Rs. 301 represented the wages of *Palki*-bearers and the balance the hire of the *Palki*. Travellers by river had, according to a return of 1781, a journey of 45 days from Calcutta and its costs depended upon

how many *Dandis* or boatmen were engaged For a "*bajra*" the rate varied from Rs 2 to Rs 8 per diem, while larger boats, which were called then "*Utanka*" cost from Rs 22 to Rs 29 a day Steam vessels do not appear to have come up so far up the river until 1828, when a vessel called the *Hoogly* came up from Calcutta, and the journey up and down was performed at an average speed of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour

The first rail track was laid in India by the East Indian Railway Company in the year 1853 It was extended to Monghyr in the year 1862 and since that date several other lines have been constructed The first to be constructed was what is known to be the loop line with a great bend towards the north from Khana Junction in order to follow the course of the river Ganga and then when traffic increased a chord line was made from Lakhisarai to Khana Junction Near about 1895-96 the construction of the South Bihar line was completed It starts from Kiul in this district and extends up to Gaya on the west where it meets the Grand Chord line

During the earlier period, when travelling facilities to and from the regions on the northern bank of the Ganga were scarce, the East Indian Railway put into commission at Sahibganj a steam vessel by the name of "*Kashiji*" in 1870 for ferrying passengers over the river Ganga This arrangement, besides affording immense facilities to the travelling public immediately proved to be a great economic success to the Railway The passenger ferry at Monghyr was introduced at a much later date after the Monghyr *ghat* to Sahebpur Kamal Branch of the old Oudh Tirhut Railway had been opened for traffic

Near about the year 1900 the Bengal and North Western Railway (Company) extended their system in the north of the district to Katihar and since then several branch lines from Mansi in this district to *Supaul*, *Bachkwarra* and *Samastipur* and from *Sahebpur Kamal* to Monghyr *ghat* and from Barauni Junction to Simaria *ghat* were constructed Till during the recent times the road communication in the district was poor and there were only a few roads and they too were not suitable for fast mechanised traffic The high cost of transport and the risk involved in a journey by road by means of slow moving transport were stumbling blocks in the way of inland trade and the material progress of the district

In the pre independence days the road system under the British grew up largely, if not mainly, in response to the need of strategy or administration Since Independence however, the direction and extent of road planning has been much influenced by the need for promoting the economic development and accordingly improvement to the existing roads and construction of a number of good roads with bridges were taken up almost immediately after the achievement of Independence in 1947 linking Monghyr and its important marketing and agricultural centres with other neighbouring districts This has

removed the long felt necessity to some extent. The position of the road communication of the district lying on the north of the river Ganga which is commonly known as North Monghyr could not, however, yet been much improved partly due to the fact that the area lies in the belt of the Kosi which is subjected to frequent heavy floods and partly due to non-availability of road materials on that side and the transport difficulties involving heavy cost in taking the materials from the south of the Ganga.

A very great landmark in the development of communication not only for the district of Monghyr but for the whole of Bihar is the completion of the ambitious project of Rail cum Road Bridge in 1959 on river Ganga at Molameh *ghat* connecting Barauni in Monghyr on the north of Ganga. There was an unfortunate bottleneck for transport, trade and commerce because of the want of a Rail cum Road Bridge on Ganga throughout the State of Bihar. The two portions of Bihar, namely, North Bihar and South Bihar have been brought nearer by the construction of this project, the formal opening of which was celebrated on the 2nd May, 1959 by the Prime Minister of India. The completion of the construction of Kosi Dam will be another landmark. It is expected that this multi purpose project on Kosi will bring cheaper electricity and various other facilities to this area as well. There is no doubt that Barauni area will be very much changed in the course of the next one decade. There are already proposals for the construction of Refineries and a Thermal Plant in this area. Already there is a scramble for various industries and speculations to acquire lands in the area in the vicinity of the Rail-cum Road Bridge.

MOOES OF TRANSPORT

The chief means of transport in the district are steamers, boats, State and private buses, trains public and private trucks and bullock carts. Taxis and cycle rickshaws are also available at Monghyr, Jamalpur and some of the urban areas. Light vehicles drawn by a single horse known as *el'kas* are on the decline. Cycles have become common.

About two-third of the bus services on the portion south of the river Ganga has been nationalised and State buses ply. As a good number of roads have been improved and bridges provided in the unbridged crossings and linked up with the neighbouring district a large number of mechanised goods transport vehicles have come into use. Bullock-carts the number of which has not been calculated still remain the main conveyance in the villages. There is no restriction for them or the *ekkas* for not using the highways.

ROAD COMMUNICATION

South Monghyr State Roads

Most of the important and arterial roads in the district have been taken over by the State Public Works Department and improved to

cope with the heavy traffic and are maintained by them. The total length so far taken over and improved by the Public Works Department is in the proximity of 250 miles. Two major bridges on the river Kiul, one at Lakhisarai on the Monghyr-Patna Road and the other near Jamui on the Monghyr-Jamui Road have been constructed with waterways 1,398 feet and 1,198 feet at an approximate cost of Rs 16,00,000 and Rs 16,81,500, respectively.

The principal roads on this side of the district mainly radiate from Monghyr, Jamui and Lakhisarai. The oldest road and historical route is the one which runs along the Ganga and is commonly known as Patna-Monghyr-Bhagalpur Road. The distance from Monghyr to Patna is 108 miles and that of Bhagalpur from Monghyr is 37 miles. Barhiya is at the western boundary and Ghorghat is on the eastern boundary of the district. The distance from Monghyr to Barhiya is 39 miles and that of Ghorghat from Monghyr is 16 miles. The road passes through Lakhisarai, Surajgarha, Monghyr, Nawagarhi and Bariarpur in the district. It is a first class metalled and tar-dressed road and there is a regular State bus service on the road between Lakhisarai and Monghyr on one side and between Monghyr and Bhagalpur on the other side. The river Harohar between Lakhisarai and Barhiya is not bridged. But there is a ferry service at the crossing and one good boat is maintained there all the year round to pass across the light vehicular traffic besides country boats for passengers. A permanent bridge on this river has already been started and the work will be completed soon. After the construction of this bridge there can be a regular bus service from Patna to Monghyr. By this route Patna is of a much shorter distance.

There is another important road connecting the district headquarters with the subdivisional headquarters of Jamui and extending to Gaya via Sikandra and Arha. It meets the Patna Ranchi Road at Nawadah in the district of Gaya. The road takes off from Bariarpur about 11 miles east of Monghyr on Patna-Monghyr-Bhagalpur Road and passing through Kharagpur, Guddi, Mallehpur, Jamui, Sikandra and Aliganj of this district enters the Gaya district near the village Arha. It is a first class metalled and tarred road. There is a regular State bus service on the road from Monghyr to Jamui and from Jamui to Nawadah.

Another important road starts from Jamui subdivisional headquarters and goes to Biharsharif in the district of Patna touching the Patna Ranchi Road in its 48th mile from Patna. It passes through the important marketing and agricultural centres of this district, e.g., Sikandra, Sheikhpura and Barbigha. The distance from Jamui to Barbigha is 40 miles. The road crosses the district border near Ambabigha, a village about two miles from Barbigha. It is a first class metalled and tar-dressed road. There is a regular State bus service on the road from Jamui to Barbigha and from Barbigha to Biharsharif.

Another important road takes off from the northern bank of the river Kiul near Jamui railway station and passing through Jhajha and Chakai in this district goes to Baidyanathdham in the district of Santhal Parganas, an important religious place for Hindus. Jhajha is at a distance of 20 miles and Chakai is at a distance of 40 miles from Jamui town. A road coming from Hazaribagh *via* Giridih and passing this district through Sirwan meets the above road at Chakai linking this district with Hazaribagh. Both these roads are first class metalled and tar-dressed roads and there is a regular State bus service on them from Jamui to Chakai *via* Jhajha and from there to Baidyanathdham as also from Hazaribagh to Chakai *via* Giridih.

There is another important road known as Sultanganj Belhar Road. It starts from Sultanganj, a village in the Bhagalpur district and passing through Tarapur and Sangrampur in this district again enters Bhagalpur district at Belhar and extending further goes to Baidyanathdham in the district of Santhal Parganas.

It is a first class metalled and black topped road up to Belhar. There is a regular State bus service on this portion of the road. The road beyond Belhar up to Baidyanathdham (Deoghar) is a fair weather road and there is a bus service during fair weather only. A road from Kharagpur connects this road at Tarapur. This is also a first class metalled and black topped road.

There is also a road from Sikandra to Lakhisarai, a distance of 16 miles. This road links the Jamui Barbiglia Road with Monghyr-Patna Road and forms the shortest route to Patna through the interior of this district. There has been a large increase in the number of private cars in the last ten years owing to the vast improvement of the roads.

North Monghyr—National Highway

The road which is commonly known as Tirhut Road is a part of the National Highway. It enters this district at village Rashidpur on the western border and terminates at Monghyr old steamer *ghat*. The total length of the road falling in this district is 43 miles. It is to be extended to Narainpore in the Bhagalpur district and thence to Assam Access Road. It is a *Jhama* metalled road to a length of 31 miles and unmetalled for 12 miles. The portions in Begusarai Bazar and Teghra Bazar have been improved, metalled and black topped. There is a proposal to improve the remaining portion of this road in the Second Five Year Plan. The work is being executed by the State Public Works Department. This road passes through Teghra, Phulwaria, Begusarai, Bahia and Lakshminia in this district.

State Roads

About 92 miles of the District Board roads excluding the portion of the National Highway (Tirhut Road) had been taken over by the Public Works Department till 1955 for their improvement and

metalling in the First and Second Five-Year Plans, 40 miles of which have so far been improved, metalled and black topped, and made passable all the year round. Work on the remaining miles is in progress and it is expected that many more miles will be improved by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

The principal roads which are maintained by the State Public Works Department on this side are Begusarai to Srigi *via* Majhaul, Khagaria to Bakhri, Maheshkunt to Aguan *ghat*, Maheshkunt to Sonbarsa, Khagaria to Parihara, Parihara to Majhaul and Maheshkunt railway station to Gogri Bazar.

District Board and Local Board Roads

Besides the roads mentioned above, which are maintained by the State Public Works Department, there are other roads scattered throughout the interior of the district. These roads are maintained by the District Board and Local Boards. An aggregate length of the same is 1,252 miles of which 90 miles are metalled and 1,162 miles are unmetalled. They mostly connect the interior villages with the main roads of the Public Works Department.

Village Roads

About 122 miles of the village roads are maintained by the Local Boards. As the necessity of village roads connecting the villages with the nearest Public Works Department or District Board roads has been considered to be of utmost importance to open out vast areas which are closed up and which one cannot reach unless one walks or rides, the Community Projects and National Extension Service Administration are intensely concentrating on village roads construction by enlisting public co-operation. Funds have been sanctioned by the State Government for encouraging construction of village roads on co-operative basis by the villagers offering free labour, gifts of land, etc.

Forest Roads

Monghyr Forest Division was created during the year 1945-46 with the forests of Banail Raj and Gidhour Raj. Previously the private forest owners did not give any importance towards communications and construction of roads within the forest areas with the result that vast areas inside forests remained undeveloped and unexploited in forest wealth. After the promulgation of the Bihar Private Forests Act, 1948, Government started taking over of the forests of this district and due to stiff opposition of the landlords in forest administration the department had to face difficulties in developing the roads and communications inside the forest areas in the beginning. Gradually a five-year road programme was chalked out and during the year 1950-51 the department was able to align a part of Barhat-Gurmaha Road at a total cost of Rs 35 only.

MILEAGE

There are several existing cart tracks which were previously owned by the private landlords. These existing cart tracks are mostly situated within the forests of Darbhanga, Banailly and Gidhour Raj which extend about 38 miles approximately. In addition to these existing cart tracks the department has aligned several roads which extend 84 miles approximately and about 42 miles 22 chains of roads have been newly constructed up to the year 1956-57. The forests of this district extend over an area of 500 square miles and the mileage of roads so far achieved inside the forests is almost negligible and as such alignment and construction of new roads are earmarked and taken up for execution.

Statement showing the description of roads with mileage and expenditure incurred since the creation of the Monghyr Forest Division

1945-46	No roads were constructed
1946-47	Ditto ditto
1947-48	Ditto ditto
1948-49	Ditto ditto
1949-50	Ditto ditto
1950-51	Only a part of Barhat Gurmaha Road was aligned at a cost of Rs 35
1951-52	The following existing fair weather roads were improved out of relief fund at a total cost of Rs 16,610 — Gurmaha Chormara Road—4 miles Gangta Bhimbandh Road—8 miles Bhimbandh Chormara Road—4 miles Chormara Karmegh Road—12 miles Barhat Gurmaha Road—6 miles
1952-53	The following existing cart tracks originally constructed by the forest contractors were repaired at a cost of Rs 1,999 — Gangta Bhimbandh—8 miles Chormara Karmegh—12 miles Dabiakura Jhikulia—3 miles Duhari Bhelwa—1 mile
1953-54	Barhat Gurmaha Road—6 miles was constructed at a total cost of Rs 8,897 The following existing cart tracks originally constructed by the forest contractors were repaired and maintained — Gaighat Bhimbandh Road—8 miles Bhimbandh Chormara Road—4 miles Chormara Gurmaha Road—4 miles

- 1954-55 .. The following roads were aligned :—
 Kharagpur-Karmegh Road—8 miles 40 chains.
 Rupabel-Mahengro Road—3 miles 40 chains.
 Gurmaha-Mananpur Road—8 miles 49 chains.
 Bhelwa-Ramchandradih Road—6 miles 71 chains.
 The following existing cart tracks were repaired and maintained at Rs. 8,362 :—
 Gaighat-Bhimbandh Road—4 miles.
 Bhimbandh-Chormara Road—5 miles.
 Chormara-Gurmaha Road—4 miles.
 Barhat-Gurmaha Road—6 miles.
 The existing Kharagpur Lake Road was repaired at a total cost of Rs. 6,000.
- 1955-56 .. The following new roads were constructed :—
 Bhimbandh-Chormara Road—6 miles.
 Chormara-Karmegh Road—5 miles.
 Karmegh-Paisra-Kandhi Road—6 miles.
 Batia (Dhubiakura)-Bhelwa Road—5 miles.
 The following roads were aligned :—
 Lachuar-Janamthan Road—4 miles.
 Bhelwa-Narganjo Road—8 miles.
- 1956-57 .. The following new roads were constructed :—
 Kandhi-Kharagpur Road—4 miles.
 Banbarsa-Kandhi Road—1 mile 42 chains.
 Rupbel-Mangrar Road—3½ miles.
 Barahat-Gurmaha Road—5 miles 20 chains.
 Gaighat-Dighi Road—60 chains.
 The following roads were aligned :—
 Narkol-Karmantari-Gaighat Road—15 miles.
 Chitardih-Kiajori Road—2 miles 46 chains.
 Kundghat-Bhelwa Road—8½ miles.
 Narganjo-Mangrar Road—6 miles.
 Mallepur-Mananpur Road—8½ miles.
 The following roads were repaired :—
 Gaighat-Bhimbandh Road—6 miles.
 Bhimbandh-Chormara Road—6 miles.
 Karmegh-Paisra Road—6 miles.
 Chormara-Karmegh Road—5 miles.
 Barhat-Gurmaha Road—7 miles.
 Aurni-Kachua Road—5 miles.
 Batia-Bhelwa Road—6 miles.

STATE TRANSPORT.

In this district passenger road transport has been partially nationalised. The State Transport Department was opened in this district on the 26th January, 1956. A report from the Raja

Transport Depot at Monghyr in the first week of March 1958 gave the routes of buses and mileage covered by them —

	Miles
(1) Monghyr—Bhagalpur	39
(2) Monghyr—Sangrampur <i>via</i> Sultanganj	45
(3) Monghyr—Sangrampur <i>via</i> Kharagpur	41
(4) Monghyr—Sangrampur <i>via</i> Gangtamore	37
(5) Monghyr—Kharagpur	22
(6) Monghyr—Jamalpur	5
(7) Monghyr—Jamui	50
(8) Monghyr—Kuni	30
(9) Monghyr—Gourabdihi	29
(10) Monghyr—Biharsharif	108
(11) Monghyr—Nawadah	98
(12) Monghyr—Nawagarhi	6
(13) Jamui—Monghyr	50
(14) Jamui—Bhagalpur	67
(15) Jamui—Chakai	48
(16) Chakai—Simultala	17
(17) Arha—Jamui—Mallehpur	36
(18) Jamui—Biharsharif	58
(19) Chakai—Deoghar	58
(20) Jamui—Nawadah	46
(21) Jamui—Sikandra—Lakhsara	29
(22) Sangrampur—Jamui	32
(23) Tarapur—Bhagalpur	29
(24) Tarapur—Sultanganj	6
(25) Sultanganj—Belhri	27

The report mentions that 29 56 047 passengers were carried in the year 1957 by the Rajya Transport vehicles plying in Monghyr district. The income earned by Monghyr and Jamui Depots and Tarapur Station of the Rajya Transport functioning in Monghyr district excluding the Terminal tax at 1/9 in the rupee for the year 1957-58 up to date is Rs 11 88 269 60 nP. The expenditure figure was not available as this was compiled at the Rajya Transport Divisional Office at Bhagalpur.

Private buses run concurrently on the following routes —

- (1) Monghyr—Sangrampur *via* Gangtamore
- (2) Monghyr—Sangrampur *via* Kharagpur
- (3) Monghyr—Deoghar *via* Jamui
- (4) Arha—Jamui
- (5) Tarapur—Sultanganj
- (6) Monghyr—Bhagalpur
- (7) Monghyr—Kharagpur
- (8) Monghyr—Surajgarha
- (9) Jamui—Chakai

- (10) Monghyr—Jamui
- (11) Monghyr—Tarapur *via* Kharagpur
- (12) Monghyr—Jamalpur
- (13) Monghyr—Kajra *via* Surajgarha
- (14) Monghyr—Lakhisarai *via* Kiul and Surajgarha
- (15) Bhagalpur—Sangrampur *via* Sultanganj—Tarapur
- (16) Bhagalpur—Belhar
- (17) Bhagalpur—Tarapur
- (18) Sultanganj—Belhar

The State Government have now set up a Road Transport Corporation which controls the State Transport vehicles

RAILWAYS

The district is on the whole well served by railways those to the south of the Ganga being broad gauge and those to the north being meter gauge

The railway on the south of the Ganga is known as Eastern Railway and that of on the north is known as North Eastern Railway

Eastern Railway

The loop line of this railway passes through the district from east to west and the chord line from north west to south-east while the South Bihar Railway runs through the Sheikhpura Thana of this district westward to Gaya There is also a branch line leading from Jamalpur to Monghyr town

The loop line enters the district five miles east of Bariaurpur and leaves it just beyond Barhiya on the western border of the district This line presents some interesting engineering features Shortly before reaching Jamalpur it passes through the northernmost ridge of the Kharagpur hills by a tunnel called the Monghyr tunnel This tunnel is 900 feet in length 23 feet in height and 25 feet in width After leaving Jamalpur the line proceeds for about thirty miles close to the Kharagpur hills and between Kiul and Lakhisarai crosses the river Kiul by a fine lattice girder bridge of 9 spans of 150 feet each It then takes a sharp curve in a northerly direction and four miles further on crosses the Harohar river by another lattice girder bridge of 3 spans of 150 feet each

In connection with railway communication particular mention has to be made of the Eastern Railway Workshop at Jamalpur Just a century after Nawab Mirkasim Ali Khan lost the battle at Udhua, Nala rivulet within a distance of one and half miles of that site the East Indian Railway (now Eastern Railway) mechanical workshop at Jamalpur was established in 1862

The site selected was convenient from point of view of man power to be employed as a large number of skilled artisans whose ancestors were the accredited gun makers of the Nawab Nazib lived

nearby. There were many families who were traditionally smelters of the iron-ores. Besides Jamalpur had already been made the headquarters of a railway district for engineering and traffic operations. At that time the Jamalpur railway district had within its jurisdiction 186 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of the railway tracks until the chord line district was opened for traffic and a re-distribution of the entire line became imperative from operational point of view. The cost of maintenance of the track within this district, compared with the others then in vogue was the heaviest up to the year 1872 due to its proximity to Ganga, which whenever in spate used to do a lot of damage to the line. The annual cost per mile was Rs. 73 whereas the same varied from Rs. 45 to Rs. 67 in the remaining eight districts.

The workshop is the largest railway Locomotive Workshop in India. The twenty-eight constituent shops had since far outgrown their original size and been remodelled to meet the modern needs of an undertaking of its kind after the terrible Bihar Earthquake of 1934. For further details of the achievements of the Workshop, railway training of technical personnels, etc., the chapter of Places of Interest may be seen.

Main Line (Chord Line)

The main line of this railway enters the district eight miles south east of Simultala and joins the loop line at Kiul. The main line which was known in the earlier days of the railway as the chord line, is in this district marked by some steep inclines and passes through picturesque hill scenery. After leaving Simultala, it runs through a pass between the hills, and then through some deep cuttings till it reaches Jhajha. The latter station, which is situated near the hills, contains quarters for the accommodation of the Company's servants, and is changing place for engines, a second engine being generally attached to goods train to enable them to ascend the steep incline between this station and Simultala. The line then runs close to the base of the Kharagpur hills till it reaches Kiul, a large junction at which the chord and loop lines meet and from where the South Bihar Railway takes off to Gaya.

South Bihar

The line has a length within this district of about twenty-three miles and after leaving Kiul and Lakhisarai passes two stations, viz., Serani (ten miles from Lakhisarai) and Sheikhpura (six miles further on).

Monghyr Branch Line

The only other line in the south of the district is the Monghyr branch line. It is six miles long connecting Jamalpur and Monghyr, and has an intermediate station at Purabsarai, one of the mahallas of Monghyr on the outskirts of the town.

The following is a list of railway stations on the Eastern Railway —

Main line		Loop line		South Bihar Railways	
Stations	Distance from Calcutta	Stations	Distance from Calcutta	Stations	Distance from Gaya
1	2	1	2	1	2
	Miles		Miles		Miles
Simultala	217	Baranpur	291	Kiul Junction	8
Jhajha	228	Jamalpur	297	Lakhisarai	79
Gidhaur	235				
Jamui	244	Dharhara	304	Sirari	70
Mananpur	253			Sheikhpura	64
Kiul Junction	263	Ahhaipur	311	Monghyr Branch Line	
Lakhisarai	263	Kajra	315	Station	Distance from Jamalpur
Mankatha	266			1	0
Burhee	272	Kiul Junction	320		Miles
				Purabsarai	4
				Monghyr	6

North Eastern Railway

The total route mileage of this railway in this district is about 130 miles. The Kanpur Katihar line of this railway enters this district at Bachhwara and proceeding from west to east it skirts the Ganga fairly closely for some miles up to Begusarai. Thence it continues due east to Sahebpur Kamal at a greater distance from the river, which then takes a sharp bend south before reverting to its easterly course. From Sahebpur Kamal to Mansi the railway follows the river closely in a northerly bend and then again assumes a south-easterly direction, roughly parallel to the river. There are short branch lines from Barauni and Sahebpur Kamal to the Ganga at points opposite Mokameh and Monghyr the terminal being Simaria ghat and Monghyr ghat respectively.

From Mansi there is a branch line, which runs due north, through the centre of Gogri thana to Supaul in the Saharsa district and thence to Bhaptiahi. Another branch line runs from Khagaria through Narhan to Samastipur. Another line to Samastipur, which

takes off from the main line at Bachhwara, runs for five miles of its length in the Monghyr district

A list of railway stations is given below —

Main Line (Kampur to Katihar)		Mansi Bhaptiaht Branch	
Stations	Distance from Katihar (Miles)	Stations	Distance from Bhaptiaht (Miles)
1	2	1	2
Pasraha	58	Mansi Junction	61
Maheshkunt	65	Badla ghat	67
Mansi	72	Dhamara ghat	53
Khagaria	77	Kopara	49
Sahebpur Kamal	85	Makhna Bazar	46
Lakhmina	91	Mansi Samastipur Branch	
Lakho	98	Stations	Distance from Samastipur (Miles)
Begusarai	102	1	2
Tilrath	107	Mansi	66
Barauni Junction	112	Khagaria	53
Barauni	113	Olapur	47
Teghra	116	Imli	42
Bachhwara	112	Salauna	38

Branch lines—

Sahebpur Kamal Monghyr *ghat*—4 miles

Barauni Junction Mokameh *ghat* (Simaria)—5 miles

WATER COMMUNICATION

The Ganga which intersects the district from west to east for over 70 miles is navigable throughout the year by the steamers and large country boats. Waterborne trade and commerce have been known to be flourishing since at least the days of the early British rule. This was one of the reasons why Monghyr was made one of the important administrative centres.

There used to be a regular steamer service of the I G N and R S N. Co., Ltd between Buxar and Calcutta touching two *ghats* of the district of Monghyr, e.g., Simaria and Monghyr from which passengers and merchandise used to be transported to the various steamer stations in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. This steamer

service after working for about one century had closed down its services in 1957 on the ground that it had ceased to be an economic project. The steamer company claimed that owing to the creation of Pakistan and other technical reasons they were finding it difficult to run the steamer service as a business. The closure of this regular steamer service has been a great blow to both passengers and goods traffic within and without the district. The problem is still there and is being studied at a higher level. There is also a ferry steamer service all the year round from Monghyr to the opposite bank of the river Ganga connecting Monghyr *ghat* railway station on the North Eastern Railway. There is also a similar and regular steamer service at Mokameh *ghat* in the district of Patna connecting Simaria *ghat* railway station in the district of Monghyr on the North Eastern Railway. This steamer service is under the management of the North Eastern Railway. These two steamer services provide link between the Eastern and North Eastern Railways.

The little Gandak also remains navigable for large country boats almost throughout the year and this passes through the villages in the interior of the North Monghyr. Khagaria town, the subdivisional headquarters, is situated on the north bank of the river Gandak. A ferry steamer links Khagaria with Monghyr till the water is navigable at the confluence. There is another river called Tiljuga in the North Monghyr, which also remains navigable for country boats all the year round. These two rivers are very helpful specially for inland trades. There are also a number of public ferries in the district specially on the north of the river Ganga for the facility of both passengers and goods traffic.

CIVIL AVIATIONS

There are three "Kachcha" landing grounds in the district, viz., one at Safiabadi (Monghyr) at a distance of about four miles from Monghyr court on Monghyr Jamalpur Road, the other is at Jamui about two and half miles from Jamui court and six miles from Jamui railway station on Jamui-Sikandra Road and the third is at Begusarai, two miles west of Begusarai court. These landing grounds are only suitable for small and light planes.

POST OFFICES

The postal communication as compared with that of five decades back has considerably improved. The following quotation from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, published in 1909 is of interest —

"It is of some interest to compare the present state of postal communications with what it was little over a century ago. From a table of rates of postage issued in 1795 we find that the postage from Calcutta of a letter weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolas was 4 annas, and heavier letters were charged for at an increasing rate, one rupee being charged for letters weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ tolas. An accident

which happened to the *dak* boat in that year shows us how scanty was the correspondence under this system of rates. A *dak* boat containing the Calcutta letters despatched to Bhagalpur and Monghyr having been upset and all the letters lost, a list of both mails was published. The list was not a long one, for there were only 4 private and 4 service letters for Bhagalpur, besides a copy of the "Morning Post" and 12 magazines, while for Monghyr there were 3 private and 2 service letters and 8 magazines only*. In striking contrast to this is the fact that in 1906-07 no less than 2,636,010 postal articles were delivered in the district, including 1,146,886 letters, 1,239,784 postcards, 118,690 packets, 110,734 newspapers and 19,916 parcels.

There are altogether 55 post offices in the district and 247 miles of postal communication. There is a Government telegraph office at Monghyr, and 8 postal telegraphic offices have been opened at Begusarai, Gidhaur, Jamalpur, Jamui, Khagaria, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura and Khairā. It may be added that the value of the money orders issued in 1906-07 was Rs 16,45,470 and of those paid Rs 21,37,013, while the total amount deposited in the Savings Bank was Rs 5,39,345, the number of deposits being 4,585."

In the *Revised District Gazetteer of Monghyr* published in 1926 it was mentioned—

"In striking contrast to this is the fact that in 1924-25 no less than 4,309,724 postal articles were delivered in the district, including 1,198,608 letters, 2,752,299 postcards, 187,806 newspapers, 153,107 packets, and 17,904 parcels.

There are 62 post offices in the district and 171 miles of postal communications. There are 16 combined post and telegraph offices, at Monghyr, Barauni, Barbigia, Barhiya, Begusarai, Gidhaur, Jamalpur, Jamui, Jhajha, Khagaria, Lakhisarai, Basdeopur, Sheikhpura, Simultala and Teghra. The value of the money orders issued in 1924-25 was Rs 30,72,696 and of those paid Rs 48,87,536. The total amount deposited in the post office savings bank was Rs 7,28,720 and the number of depositors 9,434."

According to a report from the Superintendent of Post Offices Monghyr Division, in March, 1958 the total area of postal communication in the district is 3,980 square miles. There is one head office, 37 sub post offices and 376 branch offices in Monghyr district. The

* *The Good Old Days of Honourable John Company* (reprinted Calcutta 1906)

average annual number of letters received and despatched came to 5,87,605 while the figure for parcels was 9,600 The value of money orders received and paid yearly for the period 1952 53 to 1956 57 is as follows —

	Rs	a	p
1952 53	40,27,758	1	6
1953 54	38,30,251	0	0
1954 55	1,38,56,218	3	6
1955 56	1,58,41,167	5	3
1956 57	2,63,87,415	0	3

TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPHS

There is a C B system of telephone with magnet at Monghyr having more than 128 mains besides extension connections A C B system of telephone is also at Khagaria with over 80 mains besides extensions At Jamalpur, Begusarai and Jamui there are P B Ex System of telephones

There are 8 telegraph offices, i.e., at Bachhwara, Barbiga, Gidhaur, Gogri, Lakhisarai, Manjhaul, Simri Bakhtiarpur and Surajgarha, 15 combined telegraphs and telephone offices, i.e., at Monghyr, Barauni, Barahiya, Basdeopur, Begusarai, Jamalpur, Jamui, Jhajha, Khagaria, Lakhisarai, Monghyr Fort, Muskipur, Sheikhupura, Simultala and Teghra and nine phones cum offices, i.e., at Bakhti Bazar, Haveli Kharagpur, Bariarpur, Mallehpur, Meghaul, Maheshkunt, Sikandra, Chakai and Sonbarsa The average annual number of telegraphs received and despatched came to 1,38,646

There is no postal stall in the district

WIRELESS STATIONS

There are four wireless stations, one at each of the district and subdivisional headquarters, i.e., at Monghyr, Jamui, Begusarai and Khagaria

REST HOUSES

There is a Circuit House at Monghyr which is maintained by the State Government A Dak Bungalow at Monghyr and 35 Inspection Bungalows scattered throughout the district are maintained by the District Board There are also four Rest Houses which are maintained by the Forest Department at Bhunbandh, Gangta, Gurmaha and Dularpur

The District Board of Monghyr maintains Inspection Bungalows at Dharahara, Balia, Surajgarha, Kharagpur, Tarapur, Singrampur, Gangta, Lakhisarai, Girinda, Barbiga, Barahiya, Jamui, Manjhaul, Billow, Sikandra, Bishunpura, Tehiya, Mallehpur Nawadhi, Simultala, Kankoria, Chakai, Batiya, Khagaria, Dhimra, Bukhtiarpur, Gogri, Begusarai, Parihara, Bakhti, Garhpura, Cheria, Bariarpur, Teghura and Bachhwara There are *dharmashalas* in all the towns and some of the townships Stay there for a limited period is free.

CHAPTER VIII

ECONOMIC TRENDS

In order to appreciate the economic trends of the district of Monghyr we have to bear in mind much of what has been mentioned in the various other chapters of this book, particularly, People, Agriculture and Irrigation, Industries, Banking, Trade and Commerce, etc. Economic trends in a district cannot be viewed as an abstract and the trends are in the various aspects that have been dealt with. It is therefore, to be appreciated that any separate chapter on Economic Trends must necessarily draw largely from what has been mentioned before and there may be some repetition.

The most important feature in this respect is that the district lives in villages. According to 1951 census there were 3,073 villages and 13 towns in the district. Three towns, namely, Barhi, Jhajha and Khagaria had grown into townships during the decade 1941-51. The two important towns in the district, namely, Jhamalpur and Monghyr have had added importance in the last decade. The population trend is, undoubtedly, somewhat towards the towns but the percentage of the population that is shifting to the towns from the villages is negligible from the point of view of the number. But the small percentage is rather important from the point of view of the educational and social level of the people. Out of the total population of 2,849,127 about 91 per cent or 2,582,010 come from the rural areas.

The density of the population according to 1951 census was 723 persons per square mile as against 572 persons per square mile for the State as a whole. The incidence of density varies and in Begusarai subdivision, this is 1,100 persons per square mile, that is almost twice the density of population in South Monghyr. The areas which lie to the extreme south of Jamui subdivision are scarcely populated. A district like this will naturally have a predominantly agricultural economy.

The fact is that agriculture still remains the gamble of nature and in spite of all that has been done for irrigation, closer cultivation, better land use, etc., rain still regulates the crop yield. About three fourths of Begusarai subdivision lies between the channels of the Ganga and Burhi Gandak rivers. The country to the west of Burhi Gandak river is the continuation of the cultivated plains of Tirhut. The northern portion of Begusarai and almost the whole of Gogri thana covering the eastern half of north Monghyr is a low lying tract very much liable to destructive floods during the rainy season. To the south of the Ganga there is a quasi *diara* tract along the banks of the river Ganga and *diara* lands are frequently formed in the bed of the river due to alluviation. The district being essentially a riverain

one, is very much liable to floods. The agricultural economy of Monghyr district, therefore, not only depends on the vagaries of rainfall but also on the vagaries of floods. The normal rainfall of the district is 48.15 inches of which 43.18 inches or about 89 per cent falls during the months *June to October*. The land utilisation and crop pattern in the district have very much to do with the rainfall and floods.

According to the *Monghyr District Census Hand-Book, 1951*, the population of Monghyr according to livelihood classes is as follows :—

Principal livelihood classes	Rural.		Urban		Total	
	Number	Per-centage	Number	Per-centage	Number	Per-centage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agricultural classes—						
1. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants	1,155,810	44.8	44,005	10.8	1,200,805	42.1
2. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants	339,000	13.1	12,962	4.0	351,962	12.4
3. Cultivating labourers and their dependants	735,471	28.5	45,260	10.9	780,731	27.4
Non cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependants	15,186	0.6	2,236	0.8	17,422	0.6
Non-agricultural classes—						
5. Production other than cultivation.	85,174	3.3	21,371	8.0	106,545	3.7
6. Commerce ..	89,383	3.4	37,754	14.1	127,137	4.5
7. Transport ..	11,811	0.4	17,484	6.5	29,295	1.0
8. Other services and miscellaneous sources.	150,175	5.8	85,055	31.8	235,230	8.3
Total	2,582,010	100.00	257,117	100.0	2,849,127	100.0

On a calculation it will be found that about four-fifths of the total population were engaged in agriculture. About 42 per cent of the total population were cultivators of land, wholly or mainly owned and their dependants, while about 27 per cent were cultivating labourers and their dependants. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants constituted only 12 per cent of the total population. Commerce had claimed 4.5 per cent of the population out of the non-agricultural occupations and hence this is an important feature, being the largest single unit in that category. The figures may be accepted as fairly correct.

The present picture of industries according to the census of Small-scale Industries, 1951 consists of 1,516 non-textile establishments and 2,889 textile establishments which included 2 cotton ginning, cleaning and pressing establishments and 5 silk spinning and weaving hand-loom. The textile establishments have a definite zone being confined to the thanas of Jamui subdivision, Gogri of Khagaria subdivision and Bachhiawara of Begusarai subdivision and in Monghyr town. So far, the Eastern Railway Workshop at Jamalpur and cigarette manufacturing factory at Monghyr are the biggest units of industrial establishments. Khagaria is noted for fish industry and for export of cheese and other milk products. With more facilities there could be a fish-canning and proper cheese manufacture and other milk product industries at Khagaria. The stone quarries, the deposits of slate and tiles are not fully exploited. The craftsmanship of the gunsmiths of Monghyr has a tradition of centuries behind it. It is understood that a number of Monghyr gunsmiths have taken jobs in ordnance and other factories elsewhere because of the lack of facilities for a proper gun factory at Monghyr. Some time or other gun-making industry in Monghyr is bound to attract much more attention. Small and cottage industries have a bright future in this district.

It is important to note that the district is properly suited for industrial development. The rivers afford facilities for cheap, although not quick, transport. It is unfortunate that the long distance steamer service to Calcutta has been closed down since 1958 but there could be no doubt that a fast steamer service will have to be reopened sooner or later. There are six main railway lines in the district, three of which pass through south Monghyr and the other three through north Monghyr. The railway system along with the river facilities, a distance of over 70 miles being navigable in Ganga at all seasons of the year for steamers and large country boats, there should be no misgivings for want of transport facilities. Besides Ganga the little Gandak is navigable all the year round for large country boats and the Tiljuga river affords navigability for country boats. There is still a considerable river-borne trade carried on by large boats carrying goods and passengers to a number of places between Calcutta and Patna. Inter-district trade largely depends on the waterways.

There is also support from roadways. The most important road in the district is Patna Monghyr-Bhagalpur Road. There are other important roads which have been mentioned in the chapter under Communications. The roads connect Monghyr with a number of important districts, namely, Patna, Gaya and Darbhanga.

Recently a number of large industrial projects have been sanctioned and they are expected to function within a few years. As mentioned elsewhere, the Barauni area will, in the course of the next few years be changed into an industrial sector. The opening up of the road cum rail bridge over Ganga connecting Mokameh with Barauni is bound to give a great incentive for quicker locomotion of basic articles and commerce and industries will be encouraged. The Gandak Project is likely to go through with Nepal's consent within the next decade and once completed this multi purpose project will be a boon to North Bihar. North Monghyr will get cheaper electricity and the flood problem will be partially solved. All this will help to bring in an industrialisation in North Monghyr. Begusarai and Khagaria subdivisions and particularly Begusarai will become an important industrial sector.

For the purposes of this chapter, data will liberally be drawn from the District Monograph for Monghyr published by the *All India Rural Credit Survey*, Reserve Bank of India Bombay (1959). The *All India Rural Credit Survey*, 1951-52 had made the investigations in eight villages of the district. A lot of useful data obtained by the investigation could very well be applied for appreciating the economic trends of the district within certain limits. The villages were selected from different areas and are of different types of importance. Mention will be made about some of the data as they indicate the economic trends of the district.

The average size of cultivated holding per family in acres will come to 30.1 for the category under big, 16.4 under large, 4.5 under medium and 1.4 under small. For the district as a whole, the average size of cultivated holding per cultivating family worked out to 7.2 acres. The average size of the cultivated holding per family of big cultivators was 30.1 acres which was 21 times the average size of the cultivated holding of small cultivators, about 7 times that of medium cultivators and about twice the holdings of large cultivators. It has to be mentioned that Monghyr is one of the few districts in Bihar where there are big cultivators with sizeable lands. There is definitely an uneven distribution of cultivated holdings of cultivators in the villages. There are a number of well known Bhumihar Brahmin families who own large tracts of lands. There were also rich zamindars in this district. With the abolition of zamindaris, their zamindari interests have disappeared but their personal lands remained. Ceiling of cultivable land for the individual has not yet been imposed. It can well be said that the imposition of ceiling of land will have a greater impact on this district than on many

other districts in Bihar. This will be so as the number of cultivator families owning more than 50 acres of cultivable land is very large. They are practically scattered all over the district and form the steel-frame of the agricultural economy of the district.

The size of holdings should not, however, be taken necessarily as an indicator of good cultivation. It is also unfortunate that the growing live-stock population of the district is more of a drag for good cultivation. Plough cattle when deteriorated are not normally disposed of and the result is that there is a plethora of semi or fully useless cattle. For the district as a whole about 73.2 per cent of the cultivating families owned plough cattle, the average number of owned plough cattle per reporting cultivating family being 1.9. About 97 per cent of the big cultivators were reported to be owning plough cattle. The pattern of ownership of plough cattle amongst large cultivators was not very different from that among the big cultivators. Among large cultivators the average number of plough cattle owned per reporting family was 2.7, among medium and small cultivators the proportion of the families reporting ownership of plough cattle was 84.5 and 35.1 per cent respectively. The average number of plough cattle owned per reporting family among medium and small cultivators was 1.5 and 1.2 per cent respectively.

Agricultural economy is also characterised by the unenviable feature of indebtedness. The All-India Rural Credit Survey made investigations in eight villages as mentioned before to find out the extent of indebtedness, size, incidence, growth and other aspects of debt of the rural families. Their conclusions have an applicability although somewhat conditional, for the whole district. They have concluded that only three-fourths of the rural families were indebted, but the proportion varied from village to village and from group to group. Peculiarly enough, the Bhumihaar Brahmins who constitute the rich land owning class in the district were found to have incurred most of the debt. The average debt per cultivating family worked out to Rs. 404 per family. The debt per big cultivating family was very high. The number of money-lenders, direct and indirect, is very large in this district.

Regarding the incidence of debt, the District Monograph for Monghyr mentions: "These data also bring out that the burden of debt in relation to the owned assets and owned land is much greater on the cultivators with small-sized holdings. But it has already been noted that many cultivators with small-sized holdings were cultivating labourers and/or were engaged in non-agricultural activities which introduce an element of non-comparability even in the measure of debt burden. Apart from the difficulties arising out of the variations in the size of land holdings, there is also the problem relating to the ownership status or the variations in the interests of the cultivators in the land cultivated by them. In case there is a significant difference in the quality of the holding rights as between

different strata, the mere holding of land for cultivation purposes would not necessarily be indicative of similar capacity to require or bear debt. More particularly, if the upper strata cultivators held exclusively or to a much greater degree superior rights in land and the lower strata cultivators inferior rights, then neither the cultivated holdings nor the total value of the gross produce of cultivated holdings (a part of which may have to be handed over to landlord in lieu of rent in the case of *Batai* cultivators) may indicate the same propensity for expenditure on farm business or the same capacity to bear the burden of debt. Further, we collected data regarding the value of owned land and owned assets which could be used for getting a broad idea regarding the extent of debt in relation to the owned assets and owned land, these data have been given in Table 36 which indicates that according to assets the debt burden on the lower strata was about four times the burden on the upper strata.

Among cultivators the debt formed 29 per cent of the total assets. For families in the lower strata this ratio was higher at 71 per cent. The relation of the debt to the value of owned land has sometimes greater significance than its relations to the value of total assets. Since owned land formed about 75 per cent of the total value of assets in each group there has not been much variation in the ratio of debt to the value of owned land."

It is interesting to study the security offered for outstanding debt. The investigation discloses that among the upper strata cultivators, only 70 per cent of the outstanding loans were on personal security and 17 per cent on the security of immovable property while in the case of the lower strata cultivators about 94 per cent of the outstanding loans were on personal security and the balance on the security of immovable property.

This fact will indicate indirectly the source of credit. Since the bulk of the outstanding loans were on personal security it goes without saying that the credit was available from the well-to-do villagers or local *mahajans* who know the party well. This also leads to the vicious circle of more or less semi permanent indebtedness in the family. If this source of credit was not available probably there would not have been that craze for borrowing credit. Regarding outstanding debt, according to the rate of interest, the monograph mentions "About 42 per cent of the total outstanding debt of the cultivating families were contracted at interest rates varying from 18 to 25 per cent per annum, while about one fourth of the debt was contracted at rates varying from 7 to 12½ per cent per annum. It may be noted that about three fourths of the outstanding debt in the case of lower strata cultivators were contracted at interest rates varying from 18 to 25 per cent and 35 to 50 per cent per annum, while about one-third of the debt among upper strata cultivators was contracted at these rates of interest."

The study on indebtedness in the brochure concludes with the following observations —

“From the foregoing analysis of outstanding debt, the following features stand out prominently. The average outstanding debt per family is not very high. The average would have worked out much lower but for the heavy borrowings by some big cultivators in the northern villages. Much of the outstanding debt was accounted for by the heavy current borrowings by the rural families who were forced to borrow on account of the scarcity conditions which prevailed prior to the year of the Survey.

In majority of the cases the debt was not outstanding for more than 3 years. The burden of debt, as measured by the relation of debt to cultivated holdings, was very high in case of families in the lower strata.”

The family budget is a good indicator of the economic trends. Social obligations still play a big hand in determining the family expenditure. The expenditure on purchase of clothing, shoes, beddings, etc., and particularly on marriage and other ceremonies are very important in family expenditure. Proportionately the big and large cultivators spend more on marriage and other ceremonies which they could ill afford. The small cultivators and non-cultivators proportionately spend more on clothing, shoes, bedding, etc. That the standard of living is slowly going up is shown by the fact that the expenditure on construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings was significantly large in the case of big and large cultivators. Similarly, the level of expenditure on purchase of household utensils, furniture, clothing, shoes, bedding, etc., was higher in the case of big and large cultivators than in the case of medium and small cultivators. But this proportion to the total family expenditure was more or less the same in the case of the different classes of the cultivating families. This is also true in the case of medical expenses. The expenditure on account of education is becoming larger among the big and large cultivating families and quite important among the small cultivators and non-cultivators. Recently there has been a great expansion of educational institutions in the rural areas. Colleges and secondary high schools in the rural areas are rapidly being opened and large percentage of students who could not possibly have gone to Monghyr or any other neighbouring district towns for their college or higher school education are getting themselves admitted in the institution, in the rural areas. The standard of education in these rural colleges particularly is not very high and there are hardly any restrictions for admission. The growth of Arts Colleges at the expense of technical institutions in the rural areas cannot possibly be taken as a healthy economic trend. They are only adding to the number of half baked

graduates and under-graduates who are swelling the crowd of applicants for white-collared jobs. This is a tragedy. Many cultivating rural families know that their children after a smattering of secondary or college education will never turn to agricultural pursuits and yet they are not bold enough to stop sending their children to such institutions and put them to the cultivation and improvement of their lands. The result is that they have to go in for hired labour which many of them can ill afford. The position will soon be that the landless labourers will dictate their terms for ploughing the lands or reaping the crops.

Construction of better type houses is also a new idea in the rural areas and definitely shows the upgrading of standard. R. C. and R. B. houses brick built buildings are rapidly multiplying in the villages. This has an indirect effect on the people of lower income group who are also trying to get better type houses within or beyond their means. There is more of consumption of consumer goods in the villages. The number of markets have grown and now the big villages and the townships have invariably some shops offering a display of consumer goods. Shaving saloons and restaurants have become a common feature even in the small townships. The number of *pan bari* shops has definitely multiplied. Cycles, umbrellas, torches and lanterns are almost a must in the family of average means. The fact that there are more of tailors, *halwas*, amusement centres, etc. show that the rural agricultural economy has its urban features as well. The opening up of the National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks in some of the important villages will definitely upgrade the standard of living and bring about changes in the previous pattern of agricultural economy.

A definite landmark has been the opening of a large number of *Gram Panchayats*. One of the basic ideas is to cut down the litigation charges. It is expected that small litigations would be amicably settled by the Village Panchayats and if there is no settlement there will be quicker administration of justice as a villager would not like to perjure himself in presence of the other co-villagers. So far it cannot be said that we have even approached the fringes of this ideal. The Village Panchayats naturally will have the initial difficulties for some time to come but with their development and popularity, all rooted litigation expenses are bound to go down. At the moment litigation does form quite a sizeable item of expenditure like medical or educational expenses.

The development of *Gram Panchayats* will be an encouragement to form co-operative unions for cultivation and other industries. Co-operative movement has not yet struck its roots but the fresh encouragement that has been given to it is bound to have good effects. Co-operative farming programme does not mean collective ownership of land, each farmer in a co-operative shall remain master of his own land but the resources will be pooled for better farming. It would

remain free to come out of co-operative farming whenever he chooses. The need of co-operative farming under a free association of free farmers comparatively free from Government control will change the present character of the agricultural economy and will cure many of the lopsidedness and mistakes of the present traditional individual farming.

There is far too much of lopsided expenditure in the family at the moment. Marriage, other ceremonies and funeral expenses, litigation, etc., take away much more from the family budget of an ordinary cultivator than the expenses on construction and repairs of houses or financial investments. The level of financial investment expenditure differs widely from family to family of average agricultural income. The expenditure on purchase of national savings certificates, treasury bonds, deposits in co-operative societies, postal savings, etc., is almost negligible in the average agricultural family. The want of a reasonable financial investment among the cultivators is a serious economic problem. It is not that the average cultivator cannot enter into such investments but unfortunately the urge is smothered by a complacent spirit. The spread of the co-operatives for farming is expected to break up the freeze.

The essentially agricultural economy of the district is intimately associated with the credit agency. It may be reiterated that the agencies which supply credit are broadly Government, co-operatives, relatives, landlords, agriculturist money-lenders, professional money-lenders, traders and commercial agents, commercial banks and others. In the chapter under Banking, Trade and Commerce the problem has been discussed. It has been mentioned that the professional money-lenders still rule the day and Government agencies or co-operatives play a rather insignificant part. Commercial banks have very little operations in the rural areas. The co-operatives contribute a negligible proportion towards the borrowing and this weak link is further weakened by the poor role of Government as credit agency. Investigations carried out in the eight selected villages in the district of Monghyr by the All-India Rural Credit Survey show that only about 7 per cent of the cultivating families reported borrowing from the Government while on the other hand, the proportion of the cultivating families borrowing from the professional money-lenders was 49 per cent. The borrowings of the cultivating families from Government barely constituted about 5 per cent of their total borrowings. About four-fifths of the borrowings from Government were for short-term consumption purposes necessary due to the more or less scarcity condition prevailing in the district.

The other important human factor in the villages is the class of landless labourers. They play a vital part in the agricultural economy of the district. Since there are no statutes to control the movement of the landless labourers, they are very mobile. There is hardly any contractual obligation and there is a singular dearth of

the landless labourers in the villages of the district. Many of them have drifted to the towns for other jobs. During the crucial days of agricultural operations, landless labourers could almost dictate their terms. The land laws are all in favour of the landless labourers. Bonded labour has been completely liquidated and many of the labourers who were given small bits of lands annually have been able to acquire tenancy rights on such lands. There is a marked movement of landless labourers from pocket to pocket during agricultural seasons. The economic condition of this class has very much improved and they are now used to better and more cloth, combs, shoes, lanterns etc. Smoking and visiting the amusement centres have become common to them. This is in contrast to the condition existing two or three decades back. Drinking has definitely increased among them.

The economic trends of the urban population are somewhat different. In the towns the sections that usually count are the lawyers, teachers, doctors—in general the professional class, Government employees, employees in connection of the courts and offices, the heavy workers and the domestic servants. The other important class in the towns comes from the men engaged in the trade and commerce. Broadly speaking, the economic condition of the professional classes cannot be said to have much improved in the popular sense. Money among them is more distributed now and the days of a very fat income for a doctor or for a lawyer are very much numbered. The different groups of the professional classes have an invisible link among them. If one group declines in prosperity, the other groups will necessarily decline. The abolition of zamindari, the opening of village courts where lawyers have no entry, the imposition of higher income tax, death duties, sales tax, the spiral rise in the prices of essential commodities, etc. have naturally contributed to the decline of the professional income of a lawyer or a doctor. The purchasing value of a rupee in the towns is very much less than what it was before. A professional income of Rs 200 per month now can buy goods and amenities which could be had on an income of Rs 50 to Rs 75 a month some years before. The higher standard of living by way of food, cloth and housing, etc., is a distinctive economic trend now. The family budget of a town dweller has a big percentage of expenditure on housing, conveyance, amusement and educational expenditure. The average town dweller with a family of four or five adults and with a monthly income of Rs 100 to Rs 200 without any other subsidiary aid such as getting grants from his village land etc., must be finding it extremely difficult to meet the barest necessary expenditure. They have certainly an unenviable lot. The town dwellers of higher income group have more avenue to spend and there is probably a higher incidence of distribution of money and the percentage of saving is poor. But the classes of domestic servants, barbers, railway porters, market coolies, heavy workers, etc., are much better off. Taking the example of a

sweeper family, every member of his family above the age of 8 or 10 years and a family of 5 to 6 earning members makes an income twice or thrice of that of an office assistant. The standard of living in the case of the domestic servants or class IV employees or heavy workers has not had a big rise and they are probably now the best satisfied group in a town.

The commercial classes are now required to pay much more by way of taxes than their predecessors two or three decades back. There are reasons to believe that there is still a big leakage of payment on the count of taxes. If the construction of big houses, possession of motor cars, luxury of throwing expensive parties could be an indicator of one's economic prosperity, it cannot be said that the lot of the upper and middle strata of the commercial classes is unenviable. In clubs, restaurants or amusement centres in shops of cloth or jewellery it is the commercial classes who could afford to spend much more than others. Probably the worst hit are the gazetted class II and the non-gazetted Government servants whose income is fixed and yet they have to meet the spiral rise of expenditure on all necessary items and maintain a certain standard.

As has been observed before this district has an industrial future. With the development of industries in the towns there will very soon be a sizeable industrial population. The tobacco concern at Monghyr has had a number of industrial troubles in the near past and there is no doubt that there will be more of them in the district when Barauni area is industrialised.

The rich oil fields in upper Assam will be connected by a 16-inch diameter crude oil pipeline to the site of a refinery to be built at Noonmati near Gauhati in Assam, a distance of about 260 miles from Digboi in upper Assam. The second phase of the project will be the extension of the pipeline system using 14-inch diameter pipes from a point near Gauhati a further 450 miles to the west at Barauni where a second refinery will be erected. The second link to Barauni is expected to be completed by 1962. The Oil India (Private) Ltd which will provide crude oil from its wells at Nahorkatiya and Moran in Assam and transport it to both the refineries has already appointed the Burma Oil Co (Pipeline), Ltd as construction authority for the project. Both the proposed new refineries will be in the public sector and will be operated by the newly formed refinery company, Indian Refineries Ltd. There is no doubt that by 1962 the face of the present rural landscape at Barauni will be completely changed. Along with the refinery there will be a Thermal Station and other allied smaller projects at Barauni. There will be amusement centres, clubs, hotels, etc.

The availability of cheaper electricity and the siting of the larger projects will give an encouragement to the growth of a chain of smaller industries such as assembling manufacture of nuts and bolts, re-rolling, etc.

Much of the economic trends in the industrial sector in the near future of this district will depend on industrial relations. Industrial relations have been aptly explained as joint and co-operative living and working in an industry by all concerns, viz., those who supply the capital, managerial and technical talents and the skilled and semi-skilled and manual labour. It is to be appreciated that industry is a living social institution for serving the community and that its main function is to produce and supply goods and services needed by the community. Earning of profits and rewards for the services rendered and earning livelihood should be considered as secondary purposes. The sooner it is realised that all the elements concerned in an industry are for a community of interest and unity of purpose, the better it would be. The industrial sectors in Monghyr, Barauni, Lakhisarai, Begusarai, Khagaria etc., will give a new tone to the economic trends and there is no doubt that in the near future we will see more of the impact of labour legislation on industrial relations. There will be more of working of social security legislations like the Employees' State Insurance Act, Provident Fund Act, Housing Act, Workmen's Compensation Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Retrenchment Compensation Act, etc. Wages legislations like the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 and the Minimum Wages Act 1948 have already aimed at securing regular and prompt payment of wages earned and the machinery for the fixation of minimum wages in certain employments where labour is unorganised and isolated. With the larger tempo of industrialisation these Acts are bound to be worked with greater vigour. There is no doubt that after industrialisation the district will see more of the working of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 and probably lawyers will have a fresh avenue.

A district with a purely agricultural economy cannot have much of a bright economic future. Monghyr is one of the fortunate districts in Bihar which within the next five years is expected to have a marked mixed economy. There is no doubt that the mixed economy with partial industrialisation of the district both in private and public sectors, will bring in new problems for the administration and for the common man. But, nevertheless, the assured mixed economy of the district will change Monghyr into one of the first rate districts in India. This will afford to some extent the cushion to absorb the ills of unemployment and a pure agricultural economy.

GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES

A study of the general level of prices is an important factor to ascertain the economic condition of the people. The price level of a commodity is affected due to various causes including internal and external circumstances. In the normal course also prices are bound to fluctuate with the variations of the seasons. But apart from all this the price level depends to a large extent on the purchasing power of the money. There are a few old records of prices of common commodities in the district. The prices of food during the

last decade of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century (vide old *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1909) were as follows —

Years	Common Rice		Gram		Wheat		Salt	
	1	2	3	4	5			
		Sr Ch	Sr Ch	Sr Ch	Sr Ch			
1891—95 (average)		14 7	20 3	14 11	10 2			
1896—1900 (,)		13 4	19 7	14 10	10 4			
1901—1905 (,)		13 5	19 12	15 3	11 6			
1908		9 8	11 12	9 0	20 0			

The rise in the price of foodgrains in 1908 had been throughout the province and was not due to local circumstances. The fall in the price of salt was ascribed to the reduction of the salt duty.

The price level of the foodgrains did not vary much up to the year 1913 but it shot up with the declaration of the First World War in 1914 and recorded a steady increase in prices till 1921. The average price of staple food crops from 1914 to 1923, published by authority of the Local Government under section 39 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was as follows* —

Year	Monghyr		Begusarai		Jamu	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sr Ch	Sr Ch	Sr Ch	Sr Ch	Sr Ch	Sr Ch
1914	9 8	7 9	8 10	7 3	9 1	7 10
1915	8 3	7 3	7 14	6 15	7 3	7 4
1916	9 11	8 4	9 10	8 3	8 11	8 5
1917	7 6	10 7	10 6	10 5	10 11	11 8
1918	8 0	9 3	8 2	9 3	8 0	9 0
1919	6 10	5 15	6 10	5 6	6 5	5 5
1920	5 13	5 9	6 7	5 6	6 4	5 14
1921	6 3	5 9	6 1	5 13	6 4	6 8
1922	5 11	8 1	6 5	6 14	5 15	6 2
1923	8 12	7 0	8 2	7 0	8 2	7 14

*SOURCE — The Old *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926

From 1923 to 1929 there had not been much fluctuation in the price level of the staple food crops. But from 1929 onwards the downward trend was noticeable in the general level of price due to world wide depression which continued up to 1938-39. The price level again shot up with the declaration of the Second World War in September, 1939. The rise in prices was mainly due to the intense activity of the speculators, but apart from it there were several concomitant factors for the rise in prices. Government adopted prompt measures to check the soaring prices of the commodities through price control and rationing. In spite of the restrictive measures the prices of all the commodities were at higher level than that of the pre war period. During the beginning of 1941 the price of rice and gram was at a low level but from July onwards they steadily rose though in December, 1941 the price of comparatively at a lower level. The ruling wholesale prices with index numbers during the decade 1941-50 as given in the *District Census Hand book* are given below —

Monghyr wholesale prices with index numbers during the decade

Year	Month	Rice (Medium)	Wheat (Red)	Gram	Rice
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Price per maund			Index Nos
		Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p	
1941	January	5 2 0		3 1 0	128 1
	February	5 2 0		2 15 0	128 1
	March	5 2 0		2 15 0	128 1
	April	5 2 0		2 15 0	128 1
	May	5 2 0		3 0 0	128 1
	June	5 2 0		3 0 0	128 1
	July	6 11 0		3 7 0	167 2
	August	6 0 0		3 6 0	150 0
	September	6 0 0		3 4 0	150 0
	October	5 13 0		3 4 0	145 3
	November	6 2 0		3 5 0	153 1
	December	5 4 0		3 5 0	131 3

Year	Month	Rice (Medium)	Wheat (Red)	Gram	Rice
1	2	3	4	5	6
Price per maund					Index Nos
		Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p	
	May	14 8 0	13 0 0	9 8 0	362 5
	June	14 12 0	11 0 0	9 0 0	369 8
	July	15 0 0	11 0 0	8 12 0	375 0
	August	14 8 0	11 0 0	8 4 0	362 5
	September	13 8 0	10 0 0	7 12 0	337 5
	October	11 8 0	10 0 0	7 0 0	287 5
	November	11 4 0	8 8 0	7 0 0	281 3
	December	11 0 0	7 0 0	5 0 0	275 0
1945	January	12 8 0	9 0 0	6 10 0	312 5
	February	14 0 0	12 8 0	7 12 0	350 0
	March	14 0 0	12 0 0	8 0 0	350 0
	April	12 8 0	11 8 0	0 0 0	312 5
	May	12 8 0	11 4 0	7 8 0	312 5
	June	12 8 0	11 8 0	7 8 0	312 5
	July	12 8 0	11 8 0	7 8 0	312 5
	August	12 8 0	11 8 0	7 8 0	312 5
	September	12 8 0	11 8 0	8 8 0	312 5
	October	12 8 0	11 8 0	8 8 0	312 5
	November	13 4 0	11 8 0	8 8 0	331 3
	December	13 6 0	11 8 0	8 8 0	334 4
1946	January	13 6 0	11 10 0	8 8 0	334 4
	February	15 0 0	14 0 0	13 0 0	375 0
	March	16 12 0	14 4 0	12 0 0	418 8
	April	16 12 0	15 0 0	11 8 0	418 8
	May	.. 21 0 0	16 0 0	14 0 0	525 0
	June	. 20 8 0	14 8 0	13 5 0	512 5

Year	Month	Rice (Medium)	Wheat (Red)	Gram	Rice
1	2	3	4	5	6
Price per maund					Index Nos
		Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p	
1947	July	26 0 0	15 8 0	15 8 0	650 0
	August	26 0 0	15 8 0	15 8 0	650 0
	September	20 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	630 0
	October	26 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	650 0
	November	27 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	675 0
	December	20 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	500 0
	January	25 8 0	18 0 0	23 8 0	637 5
	February	25 8 0	23 0 0	22 0 0	637 5
	March	26 0 0	22 8 0	16 0 0	650 0
	April	24 0 0	16 0 0	15 0 0	600 0
	May	22 8 0	17 0 0	15 0 0	562 5
	June	24 8 0	17 0 0	15 4 0	612 5
	July	25 8 0	20 0 0	17 0 0	637 5
	August	26 0 0	20 0 0	17 0 0	650 0
	September	27 0 0	21 0 0	17 0 0	675 0
	October	26 8 0	28 0 0	20 0 0	662 5
1948	November	26 8 0	25 0 0	20 0 0	662 5
	December	25 0 0	25 0 0	20 8 0	625 0
	January	25 8 0	21 0 0	20 0 0	637 5
	February	10 0 0	21 0 0	17 0 0	400 0
	March	18 0 0	21 4 0	13 0 0	450 0
	April	18 0 0	21 4 0	13 0 0	450 0
	May	23 0 0	27 0 0	14 0 0	575 0
	June	26 0 0	23 0 0	15 0 0	650 0
	July	26 0 0	21 0 0	15 0 0	650 0
	August	28 0 0	25 0 0	15 0 0	700 0
	September	26 0 0	25 0 0	15 0 0	650 0

Year	Month	Rice (Medium)	Wheat (Red)	Gram	Rice
1	2	3	4	5	6
Price per maund					Index Nos
		Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p	
1949	October	23 0 0	24 8 0	15 0 0	575 0
	November	21 8 0	24 8 0	14 8 0	537 5
	December	22 8 0	24 8 0	14 0 0	562 5
	January	24 8 0	25 0 0	13 0 0	612 5
	February	26 0 0	27 0 0	15 0 0	650 0
	March	27 0 0	21 0 0	14 0 0	675 0
	April	29 0 0	24 0 0	14 0 0	725 0
	May	26 8 0	22 0 0	15 0 0	662 5
	June	28 0 0	22 0 0	13 8 0	700 0
	July	29 8 0	18 0 0	14 0 0	737 5
	August	26 0 0	20 0 0	13 10 0	650 0
	September	26 0 0	19 0 0	14 0 0	650 0
1950	October	29 0 0	18 0 0	14 0 0	725 0
	November	23 8 0	18 0 0	14 0 0	587 5
	December	24 8 0	22 8 0	15 0 0	612 5
	January	25 0 0	24 0 0	15 0 0	625 2
	February	25 0 0	24 0 0	15 0 0	625 0
	March	27 0 0	26 0 0	15 0 0	675 0
	April	26 0 0	22 0 0	14 0 0	650 0
	May	27 0 0	25 0 0	15 0 0	675 0
	June	26 0 0	24 0 0	17 0 0	650 0
	July	30 8 0	27 0 0	20 0 0	762 5
	August	30 0 0	27 0 0	20 0 0	750 0
	September	30 8 0	26 0 0	20 0 0	762 5
	October	33 0 0	28 0 0	20 0 0	825 0
	November	32 0 0	30 0 0	17 0 0	800 0
	December	30 0 0	26 0 0	18 0 0	750 0

The statistics below from the Bihar Statistical Hand-book (Table 217) will give the working class consumer price index number for Monghyr during each month of the years 1954 and 1955 (Base : Year ending July, 1939 = 100) :—

Month.				1954.	1955.
January	..	..	..	380	335
February	..	..	..	376	343
March	..	..	..	357	343
April	..	..	..	380	331
May	..	..	..	372	339
June	..	..	..	370	341
July	..	..	..	362	354
August	..	..	..	353	371
September	..	..	..	352	357
October	..	..	..	355	372
November	..	..	..	346	387
December	..	..	..	331	371

The following statement showing consumer price index number of working classes for Monghyr and Jamalpur in 1955 compiled by the Labour Bureau, Government of India is given below from the Bihar Statistical Hand-book, 1955 (Table no. 219) :—

Base : 1949 = 100.

Months.					
January	..	..	..	..	128
February	..	..	..	..	132
March	..	..	..	..	130
April	..	..	..	..	128
May	..	..	..	..	128
June	..	..	..	..	133
July	..	..	..	..	139
August	..	..	..	..	139
September	..	..	..	..	139
October	..	..	..	..	142
November	..	..	..	..	147
December	..	..	..	..	142

From the figures given above it is seen that the price of rice had risen about six times in course of a decade (1941—1950), i.e., it was Rs. 5-2-0 per maund in January, 1941 which shot up to Rs. 30 per maund in December, 1950. From the table of the price index it is apparent that the consumer price of the working classes in spite of the various measures had risen considerably.

WAGES

In the rural areas the agricultural labourers are paid usually in kind and in the urban areas labourers are paid in cash. The wages of the labourers in the past were considerably cheap which will be evident from the following table mentioned in the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr, 1926* :—

Class of labourer	1894 95	1904 05	1907 08	1924 25
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p
Superior mason	0 4 0 to 0 5 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 14 0 to 3 5 4
Common mason	0 2 0 to 0 3 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 5 4 to 1 11 3
Superior carpenter	0 5 0	0 5 0 to 0 8 0	0 0 0 to 0 8 0	1 14 0 to 6 11 0
Common carpenter	0 3 0 to 0 4 0	0 4 0 to 0 5 0	0 5 0 to 0 0 0	0 5 3 to 1 11 0
Superior blacksmith	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	1 14 0
Common blacksmith	0 4 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 0 0
Male cooly	0 2 0	0 2 0 to 0 3 0	0 3 0 to 0 4 0	0 8 0 to 0 12 0
Female cooly	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0 to 0 2 8	0 4 0 to 0 6 0
Boy cooly	0 1 0	0 1 6	0 1 6 to 0 2 0	0 2 0 to 0 3 0

From the above statistics it is apparent that the wages in 1924 25 of the mason, carpenter and blacksmith had shown upward tendency. Agricultural labourer was, however, paid in kind, the value of the grain thus given for a day's labour being from five to six annas.

From 1930 to 1945, i.e., up to the close of the Second World War the level of the wages practically remained stationary, though level of price as stated before after 1942 showed an upward tendency. The soaring prices of food crops after 1945 did not affect the agricultural labourers adversely as they were generally paid in kind. After 1945 the wages of both skilled and field labourers began to rise. The statistics of the average daily wages paid to agricultural labourers

appears to be chiefly to Eastern Bengal, the people going away in November and December and returning after March. A good many from this part of the district appear also to be recruited by the jute presses in Eastern Bengal. The amount of labour obtainable seems to depend on the state of the crops, and varies from year to year, the number of landless labourers appears to be great, since labour is obtained from Begusarai at a cheap rate for Monghyr town but in a good year the people are fairly well off, and might not care to migrate.

With reference to the rest of the district, the northern part of the Sadr subdivision is not to be recommended as a recruiting ground, since the available labour is required in the district. The Jamalpur workshops run daily workmen's trains from Jamalpur, west to Kajra north to Monghyr and east to Baranpur, and are contemplating extending these. Messrs Ambler and Company at Dharahra also need all the labour they can obtain and complain of its scarcity. In the west and south of the district, however, in thanas Sheikhupura, Sikandra, Jamui and Chakai, recruitment is to be encouraged, as the land is mostly poor there are a large number of landless labourers, and the people generally are very badly off. There is some rabi in Sheikhupura, but the land is mostly under winter rice. Emigrants go freely to the mills from here and also (especially from Chakai thana) to the coalfields of Giridih and Jherria, but probably considerably more labour could be obtained, especially for the mills and for handling goods if it were sent for. The castes which go to coal seem to be mostly Musahars, Dosadhs and Nunias, besides some Dharhis. Labour would probably be easily obtainable from January till the rains broke. This part of the Monghyr district, I think, therefore is to be recommended for labour of all kinds.

The above quoted remarks still hold partially good. But since the partition of the country the emigration of labourers in towns like Dacca, etc., which now form part of East Pakistan had been restricted.

The discussions and the statistics above will show that the living standard of the people in Monghyr district is being raised to higher levels but the exclusive agricultural economy which still rules the day has been a road block to a very great extent. The problem of unemployment is still there and in a rather acute condition among the literate and educated men. The craze is, as mentioned before, towards white-collared job and there is an apathy for manual labour and for taking to technical jobs involving arduous work. There is also as indicated before, an acute dearth of technical institutions for teaching handicrafts, etc., and for the production of consumer goods. The District Employment Exchange Office has not been able to meet the problem squarely.

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the previous sections the important occupations like agriculture, industry, etc., have been discussed. There is, however, a small

but an important part of the population which has not been considered so far from the point of view of their occupations. They are persons engaged in various employments of both the Union and the State Governments and under the local bodies like the District Board and the municipalities. There are also persons engaged in the professions of law, medicine and engineering. There are also persons engaged in the domestic and personal services.

The majority of persons employed in Government or local bodies, professional classes belong to the middle or lower middle class. It is to this class and their dependants that a fairly large number of urban population consisting of tailors, barbers, washer men, domestic servants, hoteliers, transport workers, shopkeepers, more or less look to for their livelihood. A good number of urban population partially derive their livelihood from the student community. No detailed survey, either sociological or economic, has been conducted about the various occupational groups in the district of Monghyr, without which no definite conclusions can be drawn. The census of 1951 has, however, enumerated statistics of these persons which may be referred to.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The total number of persons engaged in Health, Education and Public Administration was 3,423 out of which 3,063 were males and 360 females in the 1951 census. The break up figures were as follows —

Occupations	Total		Employers		Employees		Independent workers	
	Males	Fe males	Males	Fe males	Males	Fe males	Males	Fe males
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Medical and other health services	536	136	49	6	146	82	341	50
2 Educational services and research	1,092	206			1,092	206		
3 Police (other than village watchman)	*432				432			
4 Village officers and servants including village watchmen	690				690			
5 Employees of municipalities and local boards	*96	18			96	18		
6 Employees of State Government	*164				164			.
7 Employees of the Union Government	53				53			
8 Postal services	609				509		.	.

* These figures do not seem to be very correct. (P. C. R. C.)

The above statistics show that the percentage of women in the services is very small. Persons employed in the State, Union, local bodies and education services enjoy certain privilege and benefit in the shape of a cost of living allowance and provident fund. The percentage of employees with allotment of house is extremely small. Housing is a great problem and many have to spend about one-fifth of the salary for house rent. With the expansion of various Government departments, during the Second Five-Year Plan, the number of employees has gone on increasing. By 1961 census there is bound to be a large increase.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS.

Persons included in this group belong to various sub-groups which are quite distinct from one another. Under this profession comes pleaders, authors, journalists, sculptors, architects, photographers, musicians, actors, dancers, doctors, teachers and engineers. The *District Census Hand book, Monghyr, 1951* has included them under the section the services not elsewhere specified which also includes domestic and personal services. For the sake of convenience the break-up figures of the persons engaged in learned professions are given below :—

Occupations	Total		Employers.		Employees.		Independent workers.	
	Males.	Fe- males.	Males	Fe males	Males.	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Legal and business service	*561	..	14	.	66	.	481	..
2 Arts, letters and journalism	*31	3	1	..	4	..	26	3
3 Religious, charitable and welfare services	1,518	262	96	14	222	10	1,200	234
4 Recreation services	*119	70	10	1	20	1	89	68

EDUCATION.

According to 1951 census under educational services and research there were 1,092 males and 206 females out of which 2,047 males and 182 females were employed in the rural areas and 1,016 males and 178 females in the urban areas Since 1951 there had been great

* These figures do not seem to be very correct. (P. C. R. C.)

expansion in the sphere of education and the number of persons engaged in the educational services must have increased tremendously. The number of research workers is not separately given but it is known that their number is absolutely negligible. The colleges have neither the climate nor facilities for research. The teachers of the colleges and the teachers of secondary education have their separate associations. The colleges of Monghyr are affiliated to the Bihar University and the pay-scales and other privileges of the college readers are governed by the statutory provisions of the Bihar University.

MEDICAL.

The number of persons engaged in the profession of medicine and health services in the 1951 census was 672 out of which 298 males and 78 females were employed in the rural areas and 238 males and 58 females in the urban areas. Considering the vast rural population of the district, the number of medical professioners in the rural areas seems to be absolutely meagre. The highly qualified medical practitioners are allergic to go to the rural areas. But with the opening of Blocks, the rural administrative and development unit this tendency may liquidate. No research is being done by the doctors.

LAW.

The profession includes practising advocates, lawyers and *mukhtars*, their clerks and petition writers, etc. In the census of 1951 the legal occupation and business occupation have been enumerated together. In 1951 there were 561 persons associated with legal and business services. Although a very small number, the lawyers have normally provided the leadership in society and politics. No research is being done by the lawyers.

ARTS, LETTERS AND JOURNALISM.

The number of persons associated with this learned profession in 1951 was 34 out of which 22 were in the rural areas and 12 in the urban areas. This profession has not made much headway in the district. The journals are of local importance and have a small circulation.

RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE AND WELFARE SERVICES.

Religion was previously a full-time occupation. The priests, *sadhus* and *fakirs* were held in high esteem in the society. This profession is now on the wane and is not lucrative. The number of persons associated with this profession was 1,780 in 1951 out of which 1,518 were males and 262 females; 1,091 males and 237 females were in the rural areas and 427 males and 25 females in the urban areas. Considering the statistics of the other learned profession, the number associated with this profession seems to be comparatively large. Most of them have no contribution to the economic prosperity of the district.

RECREATION SERVICE

The number of persons associated with recreation service in 1951 census was 189 out of which 66 males and 3 females were in the rural areas and 53 males and 67 females in the urban areas. Recreation service includes musicians, dancers, players of musical instruments and their attendants.

In Monghyr proper the number of the dancing girls is large and the figure quoted appears to be an underestimate.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

Persons engaged in domestic and personal services according to 1951 census were as follows —

Occupation	Total		Employers		Employees		Independent workers	
	Males	Female	Males	Female	Males	Female	Males	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Domestic services	4 563	901			4 563	901		
2 Barbers and beauty shops	1 960	166	122	96	170	17	1 669	113
3 Laundries and laundry services	1 409	462	106	32	219	60	1 091	380
4 Hotels, restaurants and eating houses	233	19	34		84		115	10

Domestic services—The persons engaged in domestic services include cooks, indoor servants, water carriers, grooms, coachmen, motor drivers and cleaners. The number of domestic servants in 1951 census was 4 391 for males and 665 for females in the rural areas and 169 males and 236 females in the urban areas. A good number of females are usually employed in the domestic services but from the statistics quoted above the number of such females seems to be too small. A part-time *dai* or maid servant is engaged even in the family of low income group to do odd household work or to look after the children. This is normally prevalent in the high caste families. In the rural areas the *daies* or maid servants are usually paid in kind and in the urban areas in cash. The emolument of the casual *dai* varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8 without food and of the permanent *dai* from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 with food, while of the male domestic servant from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 with food. The figures appear to be an underestimate.

Barbers—In the Hindu society mainly in the rural areas the barbers have a distinct role to play at the ceremonial occasions. The

* These figures do not seem to be very correct. (P. C. R. C.)

barber is required to be present at the ceremonial rituals like marriage, hair-cutting ceremony, sacred thread ceremony and the funeral ceremony. The barbers previously had to play significant role in settling marriages. In the rural areas the relationship between the barbers and the customers is not only professional but also sacramental as their presence at ceremonial occasions is essential whereas in the urban areas it is now becoming purely professional. The old practice of having a family barber is now on the wane. The number associated with barbers and beauty shops in 1951 census was 1,784 for males and 129 for females in the rural areas and 176 males and 27 females in the urban areas. In the rural areas the barbers normally attend their clients or *jajman* twice in a week.

The hair-cutting saloon is becoming popular in the urban areas. Most of them are owned by the workers. The charge of saloon is two annas for a shave and six to eight annas for a hair crop. The poorer people are content with the roadside barbers who can be found in most places where they establish themselves at a convenient place and ply their trade. They usually charge one anna for a shave and four annas for a hair cut.

Washermen—The number of persons engaged in the laundries and laundry services in 1951 census was 1,871 out of which 1,125 males and 384 females were found in the rural areas and 284 males and 78 females in the urban areas. In the rural areas the washermen are paid both in cash and kind but in the urban areas they are invariably paid in cash. Some washermen have opened laundries in the towns but the standard of laundries is low.

Hotels—The number of persons associated with the hotels, restaurants and eating houses was 252 in 1951 census and they were mostly found in the urban areas. The hotels and restaurants have their importance as the meeting ground of a large number of men and work as the clearing house for tensions, gossips and rumours. The number of hotels and restaurants is on the increase. The standard of the hotels and restaurants is not high. The figures appear to be an underestimate.

Tailors—The total number of tailoring establishments in 1951 census was 216 in which 388 were employed as whole timers and 73 as part timers. Tailors are mostly found in the urban areas and in the big villages. Tailoring as a profession is mostly followed by the Muhammadans. Tailoring has now become a lucrative profession and the charges for preparing suits and ladies garments are fairly high. In Mongliyr proper there are a good number of large establishments. The owners of these establishments are tailors themselves and also employ tailors to work for them. The independent tailor with his own sewing machine is found in almost all the towns and big villages. It is unfortunate that educated young men do not take to tailoring which would have given them more income than what they could possibly get from the ordinary white collared job.

CHAPTER IX

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Regarding administrative divisions of Monghyr W W Hunter in the *Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol XV (Monghyr and Purnea), published in 1877, had laid down that the Sadar subdivision comprised the four police circles (*thanas*) of Monghyr, Surajgarha Kharakpur and Gogri. The total area of it was 1,560 square miles. In 1870-71 it contained eight magisterial and ten civil courts. The Begusarai subdivision which was created on the 14th February, 1870 comprised two police circles of Teghra and Ballia. In 1870-71 it contained three magisterial and revenue courts and the total area of the subdivision was 789 square miles. The Jamui subdivision was created on the 22nd July, 1864. The subdivision comprised the four police circles of Sheikhpura, Sikandra, Jamui and Chakai. Its area was 1,584 square miles. The total number of courts both magisterial and revenue in 1870-71 was three.

The old *District Gazetteer, Monghyr*, published in 1926 has mentioned that 'for administrative purposes the district is divided into three subdivisions, of Monghyr, Jamui and Begusarai, with an area of 1,915, 1,303 and 750 square miles, respectively. At Monghyr the Collector is assisted by a staff of seven Deputy Collectors, and by two Sub-Deputy Collectors. The Subdivisional Officers of Jamui and Begusarai are each assisted by a Sub-Deputy Collector.

Now for administrative purposes the district is divided into four subdivisions, viz., Sadar, Jamui, Begusarai and Khagaria with an area of 1,168, 1,303, 715 and 757 square miles, respectively, according to the census of 1951. The general administration of the district is vested into the District Magistrate who for administrative purposes is under the control of the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division. As a District Magistrate he exercises the powers conferred on him under the Code of Criminal Procedure and the numerous special Acts. As a Collector, he is the chief officer of the revenue administration and is responsible for the collection of revenue and other duties concerning the land revenue. He is also responsible for the execution of all planning schemes in the district and as a head of the District Planning Committee it is his duty to co-ordinate the functions of all the nation building departments in the district. As the chief executive officer of the district he is responsible for maintaining law and order and the smooth running of administration in the district level. With separation of executive from judiciary from 1951 the judicial powers of the district are now vested in the District and Sessions Judge. A detailed account of the District Magistrate and his office has been given elsewhere.

The District Magistrate is assisted by the following officers (as stands on the 31st July, 1959) —

(1) Additional Collector	1	
(2) Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors	3	(2 holding 1st class power and 1 2nd class)
(3) District Welfare Officer	1	
(4) Deputy Magistrate	1	
(5) Sub-Deputy Collector	1	
(6) Treasury Officer	1	
(7) Land Acquisition Officer	1	
(8) Sub Deputy Collectors	2	
(9) District Statistical Officer	1	
(10) District Industries Officer	1	
(11) Additional Land Acquisition Officers	3	
(12) Managing Officer-cum Assistant Custodian and District Rehabilitation Officer	1	
(13) Assistant Engineer, C D and N E S Block	1	
(14) District Accounts Officer	1	
(15) P A to Collector	1	

The Sadar subdivision has the following officers —

(1) Subdivisional Officer	1	(1st class)
(2) Land Revenue Deputy Collector	1	
(3) Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors	2	(both having 2nd class powers)
(4) Sub Deputy Collectors and Sub Deputy Magistrates	2	(both having 2nd class powers)
(5) Assistant Irrigation Engineer	1	
(6) <i>Anchal Adhikaris</i> and Block Development Officers	10	(all having 2nd class powers)

Begusarai subdivision has the following officers —

(1) Subdivisional Magistrate	1	(1st class)
(2) Deputy Magistrate	1	(1st class)
(3) Land Revenue Deputy Collector	1	
(4) Sub-Deputy Magistrate	1	(2nd class)
(5) Sub Deputy Collector	1	(3rd class)
(6) <i>Anchal Adhikaris</i> and Block Development Officers	9	(all 2nd class)

Khagaria subdivision has the following officers —

(1) Subdivisional Officer	1 (1st class)
(2) Land Revenue Deputy Collector	1 (2nd class)
(3) Sub Deputy Collector	1 (1st class)
(4) Sub Deputy Magistrate	1 (3rd class)
(5) <i>Anchal Adhikaris</i> and Block Development Officers	6 (all 2nd class except one 3rd class)

Jamui subdivision has the following officers —

(1) Subdivisional Officer	1 (2nd class)
(2) Sub Deputy Magistrate	1 (1st class)
(3) Land Revenue Deputy Collector	1
(4) Sub Deputy Collector and Sub Deputy Magistrate	1 (3rd class)
(5) Assistant Minor Irrigation Engineer	1
(6) <i>Anchal Adhikaris</i> and Block Development Officers	7 (all 2nd class)

Besides these there are other officers in the district who have been covered in the relevant sections *

The District Magistrate and his Office

The District Magistrate from the very beginning of the present set up of the administration in the district and from the days of British rule was treated as the very pivot of the set up. At first a promoted 'writer', later a covenanted hand and then a member of the Indian Civil Service or the Provincial Civil Service, the District Magistrate who was also the Collector was the officer who counted most. In the early years of British rule the District Magistrate controlled indigo plantation as well. For a long time he was the Chairman of the District Board, and looked after the roads, rural sanitation and health, village education and arboriculture.

With the growing complexity of administration there have been ramifications and special officers for some of the administrative departments. Thus the District Magistrate came to be helped by a gazetted Superintendent of Excise for the administration of Excise affairs, a Superintendent of Police for running the police administration, a District Sub Registrar for the registration of documents, a Superintendent of Jail for running the day-to-day jail administration, a Civil Surgeon to run the medical department, etc. He was given a number of gazetted officers who were magistrates of various ranks for running the core of the administration. They were also Revenue Officers and as such designated as Deputy Collectors. These officers

* The strength varies from time to time. Recently there have been posting of a District Development Officer, a District Panchayat Officer and a Managing Officer-cum-Custodian for rehabilitation work.

used to be vested with magisterial and revenue powers by publication of notification in the Official Gazette.

Even with the creation of posts for high powered officers like the Superintendent of Police or the Subdivisional Officers in charge of subdivisions, to whom considerable devolution of powers were made, the overall administrative supervision and responsibility remained with the District Magistrate. It was the District Magistrate who was the invariable link with the State. He was to implement the State policy in every branch of the district. He was accountable to the Government for bad administration. Quelling of communal disturbances combined with distribution of prizes in schools at a remote corner of his district occupied the District Magistrate's programme. The multifarious work of the District Magistrate went on multiplying but the District Magistrate's office known as the Collectorate retained almost the same pattern as had been evolved when the work was much less and there was more of executive work for the District Magistrate and Collector and his staff.

Another duty of the District Magistrate was to hear criminal cases and to decide them. Usually the District Magistrate at one time heard the appeals from the 2nd and 3rd class Magistrates and the revenue appeals. He could also try some important original cases, both criminal and revenue. In another chapter details have been given as to how justice is administered now.

With the development of public opinion the District Boards were made independent bodies but the District Magistrates had still certain responsibilities to see that the Board was functioning properly. Many of the District Officer's departments like Excise, Co-operative, Jails, etc., were made into separate departments at Secretariat level and the local officer at district level for that department was put under his departmental boss as well. Thus an Excise Superintendent had to work under the District Magistrate directly but he was also put under the Deputy Commissioner of Excise at the Division and the Commissioner of Excise at Government headquarters. But that does not absolve the District Magistrate from his overall control of these departments.

After Independence was achieved in 1947, the character of the administration has been undergoing a great change. Briefly, the State has assumed the role of a Welfare State. More and more development work and projects were introduced. More agrarian reforms came in adding to the work of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate's functions as the Collector went on rapidly multiplying. A large number of District Councils for Education, Sanitation, Small Savings Drive, Irrigation, etc., came to be formed. The District Magistrate was invariably the head of all these District Councils.

As is well known every district is divided into several units as the subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer was the executive

head of the subdivision and held in him the same type of functions and responsibilities as a District Magistrate but under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. The Subdivisional Magistrate was also a Deputy to the Collector in revenue matters. Thus the District Magistrate and Collector was at the administrative head of the district with his Deputies, firstly a number of Joint Magistrates, Assistant Magistrates, Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors at the district headquarters and secondly the Subdivisional Officers and a number of officers at the subdivisions combining the magisterial and revenue work and he had the further assistance of officers in charge of specialised departments like Excise, Registration, Medical and Public Health, etc., at headquarters with their subordinates at the lower level. With the dwindling of the European members of the Indian Civil Service in 1947 by their wholesale retirement by the Government, there was a vacuum in the rank of the top and experienced officers. The vacuum was sought to be filled up by the creation of a service known as the Indian Administrative Service. This service was filled up by promotion from the Provincial Civil Service, and recruitment from the market by selection and open competitive examinations. There are also emergency recruitments by interview only.

As mentioned before the office of the District Magistrate known as the Collectorate had continued the same type of pattern from almost the beginning of the district administration under British rule. A detailed study of the district and subdivisional offices which included the recommendations regarding the standard of staffing and the organisation to be adopted for the Collectorate and subdivisional offices was done in 1905 by a committee known as the Slacke Committee. This committee was set up to draw a comprehensive scheme for improving the position of the ministerial officers. The pattern that was set up followed the needs at that time. The English Office in the Collectorate was the clearing house of the District Magistrate's administration and every letter went to the English Office and had to be treated in the various departments concerned but under the control of the English Office. Apart from the confidential section there were separate criminal and revenue departments and the Office Superintendent was at the head of the ministerial officers. Each of the departments in the Collectorate like English Office, Establishment, Nazarat, Tauji and Cess, Land Registration, Treasury, etc., was put under a Deputy Collector or an Assistant Magistrate or a Joint Magistrate who belonged to the Indian Civil Service. The Establishment was technically under a Deputy Collector and under him the head of the ministerial establishment, namely, the Office Superintendent ran this section. The position of the Office Superintendent depended much on his personality and the impression he had created on the District Magistrate. Far too often he acted as the hidden fifth wheel of the coach and the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Establishment left matters to the Office

Superintendent for more than one reason and the ministerial officers were absolutely left under the control of the Office Superintendent

With the emergency on the wake of the Second Great War various price control measures had to be enforced. Cloth, kerosene oil, sugar, medicines, consumers' goods, and various other more necessary commodities had to be controlled. The Deputy Magistrates had to take up the role of a trader, a shop-keeper, and a godown superintendent. They did not have the training for all this work. Overnight a Sub Deputy Magistrate with a small pay of Rs. 200 per month found himself changed into a Price Control Officer or a District Supply Officer controlling transactions of lakhs of rupees. The original strength of the ministerial officers could not cope with the great pressure of work and quickly large temporary recruitments had to be made. The temporary recruits knew very well that their establishments might not last for a long time. They had very big temptations before them and it is no wonder that a certain incidence of corruption and demoralisation of the administrative machinery had crept in. This was not peculiar to this district alone but it was all over the State and probably over all the States in India.

Many of the temporary departments that had been created because of circumstances brought in by the Second Great War closed down at the proper time. Some of them like Supply Department had to be continued in some shape or other and has received fillip occasionally. New problems were created with the partition of the country and the creation of Pakistan. A number of Muslims from Mongliyr district for various reasons had migrated to Pakistan. There was a panic among both the communities for some months following the communal outburst in 1946. This tension received its peak after the partition which encouraged the Muslims to migrate.

As has been mentioned before development work has been given a great emphasis in the present set up of administration of the Welfare State. The rigours of casteism are sought to be removed both by statute and by propaganda. Laws have been passed removing the disqualification of the Harijans from entering temples. Wide facilities have been given to the backward communities and scheduled castes for education. A large number of welfare schemes have been taken up for the backward communities and scheduled castes and the aboriginals. National Extension Service Blocks and Community Projects have been started in various corners of the district. The idea is to upgrade a chain of villages under a particular project or a block so that by process of osmosis the other areas will also upgrade themselves. The abolition of zamindari had thrown the society into a whirlpool which has not yet subsided. The administrative set up has had to change very considerably because of the abolition of zamindari. There is no intermediary link now between the State and the cultivators. The landless labourers have been thought of

in the present overall schemes for the improvement of the country. All these changes at the district level were to be controlled from the Collectorate and had taxed to the utmost the set up of the Collectorate, the office of the District Officer with its own old pattern. It was felt that this pattern must go. For this reason the State Government had deputed a senior I C S Officer, Shri B D Pande, who studied the problems of the reorganisation of districts and subdivisional offices and gave his scheme. This scheme was implemented by the Government in July, 1958. By this order the set up of the district offices has been completely changed to suit the new conditions.

Shri B D Pande, I C S, took into account the existing circumstances which covered the separation of the judiciary and the executive, the development programmes and the consequent changes towards a welfare administration and the staff that had been recruited on *ad hoc* basis, the lack of method of working, supervision or inspection. It was felt that the Collectorate was not organised into properly defined unit with a proper structure which was essential for efficient office organisation. Ill assorted arrangement at the top was bound to affect the ramifications and the actual working of the schemes.

The number of clerical staff had gone up more than four times as compared with the number of clerical staff in 1904. In some districts the number of ministerial staff had gone to near about 600 persons. If to this were added the number of field staff that were working under the Collectorate, namely *Karamcharis*, Village Level Workers, *Gram Sewaks*, Inspectorates, etc., it was found that the non-gazetted establishment under some of the Collectorates would amount to as large as 2,000. This huge array of assistance itself called for administrative and organisational problem of its own.

Shri Pande found that most of the correspondence was carried out in the main office of the Collectorate known as English Office which was itself a misnomer. The English Office formerly had two main divisions, Judicial and Revenue while a number of revenue subjects were still dealt with in the English Office. There was a fairly big separate revenue establishment, consequent on the abolition of zamindari. Correspondence was also carried on in a large number of smaller offices. This led to duplication of files and papers, loss of papers, lack of supervision etc. He felt that the best arrangement for the organisation of the Main Collectorate Office was to divide the Collectorate into seven principal sections as follows —

- (1) Confidential—This was to be directly under the Collectorate
- (2) General Office—This was to replace the English Office
- (3) Revenue Office—This was to correspond to the present Revenue Office set up on the abolition of zamindaris

- (4) Development Office
- (5) Establishment Office
- (6) Legal Section
- (7) Treasury and Accounts

The proposed distribution of subjects was as follows —

Section I—Confidential

Section II—General—

- (1) Law and Order, (2) Agrarian Disputes (3) Maintenance of Public Order Act, (4) Collective Fines, (5) Police and Homeguards, (6) Requisitioning and derequisitioning of property, (7) Allotment of houses, (8) Soldiers' Sailors and Airmen's Board (9) Elections (10) Census (11) Cinemas and dramatic performances (12) Licenses (Arms, Explosives, etc) (13) Press, including examination of newspaper cuttings (14) Public Relations, (15) Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons from Pakistan, (16) Evacuee Property Act, (17) Passports and Visas, (18) Domicile Certificate, (19) Political Sufferers, (20) Jails, (21) Supply and Price Control, (22) Anti Corruption, (23) Assembly, Council and Parliament questions (24) Local Bodies, that is Municipalities, District Boards, Notified Area Committees and other Union Committees (25) Library (26) Forms and Stationery (27) Labour, including Minimum Wages Act, Workmen's Compensation, etc

Section III—Revenue—

- (1) Land Reforms (2) Tenancy Act (3) Rent and Cess (4) Khas Malial, (5) Rent Commutation, (6) Chauli dari, (7) Settlement (8) Balabandi, (9) Malkhana, (10) Registration, (11) Chakrana, (12) Embankment (13) Excise and Opium, (14) Munungo Establishment (15) Taxation Measures, (16) Record Room, (17) Copying Department, (18) Certificate (19) Nazarat (20) Circuit House (21) Land Acquisition (22) Ferries (23) Mining (24) Treasure Trove (25) Stamps (26) Crop and Weather Reports (27) Flood and Scarcity

Section IV—Development—

- (1) Five Year Plan and Co-ordination, (2) District Development Committee (3) District Planning Committee (4) District Education Committee (5) Community Project and National Extension Service (6) Local Development Works Programme, (7) Irrigation (major, medium and minor), (8) Reclamation of

Wasteland; (9) Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, (10) Gram Panchayats, (11) Vested zamindari improvement works, (12) Welfare activities of other departments including Grow More Food, (13) Statistics, (14) Forests, (15) Loans, including Agriculturists' Loans, Land Improvement Loans, Loans under the State Aid to Industries Act, etc; (16) National Savings Scheme, (17) Works Staff in the District

Section V—Establishment—

- (1) Personal cases—maintenance of service books, character rolls, leave accounts, etc., of personnel employed under the Collector, (2) Appointments, postings and transfers, (3) Leave, (4) Departmental Proceedings, (5) Provident Fund Gratuity, (6) Pensions, (7) Security, (8) Bill and Budget Works of the Collectorate

Section VI—Legal Section—

- (1) Revenue and Judicial Munshikhana, (2) Civil Suits Pauper Suits, (4) Criminal Motions (5) Inspection of Trial Registers, (6) Appeals, (7) Correspondence with the Legal Remembrancer, (8) High Court, (9) Release of Prisoners, (10) Pleaders, Mukhtars and Revenue Agents, (11) Probate, (12) Wakf Estates—Religious Endowments, (13) Payment of Pleader's bills, (14) Judicial Accounts, (15) Criminal Fines, (16) Law Agents and Law Clerks, (17) Other Criminal, Civil or Revenue Appeals or Motions—and matters connected therewith, (18) Court Malkhiana

Section VII—Treasury and Accounts—

- (1) Treasury and Accounts, (2) Sale of Stamps

Shri Pande made a detailed recommendation for the offices indicating the scales of pay under the different heads. He had further recommended for the removal of the artificial distinction between Class A and Class B Districts. At the time of the Slick Committee's Report a distinction was made between the districts mainly on the basis of the number of assistants employed under a Collectorate. Where the number of clerks was below 100 the district was placed in a lower category in respect of the pay of the supervisory staff. The number of clerks in every district was well above 100 when Shri Pande made his enquiry and he felt that the ministerial officers employed in the different districts should have equal opportunity of promotion to a higher post. Therefore he recommended that the distinction between the different districts in matter of salaries to be drawn by persons doing the same kind of jobs should be abolished.

There was a certain amount of invidious distinction between a Sadar subdivision and a mofussil subdivision. The recommendation was that the Sadar subdivision should be organised more or less on the lines of mofussil subdivisions. The Sadar Subdivisional Officer was to have the following departments —

General Office, Elections, Developments, Confidential, Loans and Relief, N E S and Gram Panchayats, Supply and Price Control, Minor Irrigation, Public Relations, Welfare, Chaukidari, Nazarat, Certificates, B T Act cases, Library, Land Reforms—L I Fee—Revenue Munshikana, Arms and Cinemas and other licenses

According to Shri Pande the Collectorate should also retain Probate, Civil Suits, Malkhana, Mines, Revenue Appeals, Settlement, Embankment, Balabandi, and Land Acquisition Sections. Another important change that had to be taken cognisance of was that with the abolition of zamindari and the vesting of the zamindari into the State, the Khasmahal Department of a district had lost its separate entity. The Khasmahal was, therefore, to be completely merged with the Land Reforms Department. The Landlord Fee Department of the Collectorate had to be abolished as with the abolition of the zamindari, no money-orders had to be sent or acknowledged. It was recommended that arrangements should be made with the District Registration Office or the Sub Registrar to deposit the Landlord Fee direct into the Treasury and send notices to the Circle Officers or the *Anchal Adhikaris* concerned.

Shri Pande went into some detail as to the necessary augmentation of certain departments like Nazarat, Certificate Record Rooms, etc. He considered that since the *Anchal Adhikari* was also the Block Development Officer, the certificate powers should not be vested in him and the procedure of getting certificates executed through the Subdivisional Officer should continue. It may be noted here that the work in connection with certificates has been transferred to the *Anchal Officers* in the other Raiyatwari States of Bombay, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, etc.

Shri Pande had also given elaborate suggestions for the working of the Development Office, Welfare Departments, Gram Panchayats, Loans Department, Establishment Office, Legal Office, Inspections, etc. He had recommended that questionnaires to assist in the inspection as in the case of some of the older manuals should be prescribed for the new branches also like those of development, revenue, etc. They will be of valuable guidance to junior officers.

He also felt that there should be adequate delegations of powers to officers at all levels, namely, *Anchal Adhikaris*, Subdivisional Officers, Collectors, etc. He had also indicated the necessity of a

regular training of the newly recruited assistants and that the training should be closely integrated with practical training in the office itself

The Chief Secretary in his no OM/R 302/56-10443, dated the 20th December, 1957, had approved of the suggestions and informed the District Officers by name that the arrangements should be made forthwith to introduce the Reorganisation Scheme in the districts and subdivisions from the 2nd January, 1958. He reiterated that the Collectorate should be divided into seven principal sections as recommended by Shri B D Pande. He further expected that the Sadar Subdivisional Officers should function separately from the Collectorate like Mofussil Subdivisional Officer with the departments as recommended by Shri Pande and the Collectorate should, however, retain the nine subjects mentioned before as per Shri Pande's recommendations. There was a further reiteration of Shri Pande's scheme in the letter of Shri M S Rao, ICS, Chief Secretary, bearing no R2 302/56 CSR-365, dated the 9th July, 1958. In this letter the existing distinction between A and B Class districts in respect of pay-scale for various categories of the posts was abolished. Orders were passed for the merging of the Khasmahal Office in the General Land Reforms Office, the abolition of L I Fee Department and other recommendations regarding Nazarat, Certificate, Establishment, Legal Section, etc.

EXCISE

The Superintendent of Excise is the head of the administration in the district level. He is under the immediate control of the District Magistrate. The Superintendent of Excise is also under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Range with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur and the Commissioner of Excise, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna. For the purpose of excise administration the district is divided into 12 circles, each under the charge of an Excise Sub Inspector. There are also four special Sub Inspectors of Excise posted at Birauni Begusarai, Kiul and Monghyr to prevent smuggling of Nepali *ganja* and Gajipuri opium. The Sub Inspectors of Excise are under the control of the Inspector of Excise whose number in the district is three, one each for the Sadar and the Jamui subdivisions and the other one for Begusarai cum Khagaria subdivisions. Besides these there are 29 Assistant Sub Inspectors and 96 peons. At Mankatha there is a Distilling Officer to look after the distillery.

The greater portion of the excise revenue is derived from the tax levied on country spirit prepared by distillation from molasses and the flower of *mahua* (*Basia latifolia*). The consumption of fermented liquor known as *tari* is also considerable. The revenue derived from *ganja* and *bhang* is also not less. The consumption of hemp drug is in fact unusually great. The statement of revenue derived

from different kinds of excisable commodities from 1953-54 to 1958-59 are given below —

Year	Country spirit	Ganja	Bhang	Opium	Foreign liquor	D P Bhang	Tar,	Denatured spirit	Miscellaneous	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1953 54	13,00,952	1,30,333	8,001	49,186	25,231	25	7,27,354	6,705	10,768	22,58,556
1954 55	13,16,859	1,87,881	7,723	44,895	22,644	24	7,16,492	8,124	11,739	23,16,384
1955 56	13,55,803	1,39,661	6,533	38,605	22,395	32	7,46,899	8,674	16,431	23,33,835
1956 57	14,06,102	1,69,412	5,806	31,825	27,207	18	7,52,960	8,102	13,006	24,74,436
1957 58	13,32,249	1,00,347	5,062	23,746	17,543	16	7,37,467	14,049	9,452	22,90,931
1958 59	12,83,877	1,02,662	5,516	0,177	16,461	10	6,32,168	17,622	9,216	20,78,709

From the statistics it is apparent that the revenue from excise has shown a downward tendency from 1957-58. This is partly due to the lower purchasing capacity of the consumer and partly due to smuggling of Nepali ganja. The State Government have imposed a ban on the oral consumption of opium from the 1st April, 1959. Sale of opium would henceforth be controlled by medical certificates.

REGISTRATION

There are nine sub registry offices including Sadar office under the L. R. Act XVI of 1908 at the headquarters station (Monghyr). The District Sub Registrar deals, as usual, with documents presented for registration in the Sadar office. Formerly the Additional District Magistrate of Monghyr was the District Registrar, but now the District Magistrate is the District Registrar of Monghyr. The Inspector General of Registration, Patna, is the head of the department.

The District Sub-Registrar assists the District Registrar in supervising the work of the sub registry offices in the district. The average number of documents registered annually during the quinquennium ending 1951 is 55,367 as against 48,265 in the preceding five years—there being an increase of 7,102 documents which is attributed to poor harvest for the last several years and rise in the prices of every commodity of life during the quinquennium under report.

The statement below would show the number of documents registered and the receipts accrued therefrom at each office of the district from 1951 to 1958 :—

Statement showing the total number of documents registered and total repairs in respect of Registration offices in the district of Monghyr.

Year.	Sadar Registration Office, Monghyr.		Sub- Registry Office, Lakhisarai		S R O, Gogri.		S R O, Kharagpur		S R O, Sheikhpura	
	Number.	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts	Number.	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1951 ..	5,646	87,531	5,420	48,379	4,808	36,386	5,714	43,212	5,121	38,742
1952 ..	4,983	81,210	5,777	45,848	4,423	35,949	4,360	32,033	3,694	27,089
1953 ..	5,100	82,079	5,053	45,814	4,202	33,910	4,213	29,951	3,855	27,241
1954 ..	4,044	76,992	4,684	40,087	4,677	36,213	4,058	30,213	4,027	27,793
1955 ..	4,787	78,573	4,754	39,744	2,841	19,075	4,251	29,099	4,448	29,561
1956 ..	5,105	89,650	5,106	44,203	3,320	23,001	3,760	31,076	4,188	28,777
1957 ..	5,132	77,590	5,106	40,104	5,553	36,644	6,164	41,228	4,750	33,152
1958 ..	5,868	91,303	6,024	48,099	6,170	38,927	6,448	40,677	5,772	39,487

Year.	S. R. O., Begusarai		S R O., Teghra		S R. O., Jamui		S R O., Khagaria		Total figures for the whole district	
	Number	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts	Number	Total receipts
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1951	9,193	73,552	5,427	46,138	12,867	77,484	7,802	48,814	62,998	5,00,238
1952	8,200	69,187	5,515	43,245	9,505	51,224	5,697	38,313	51,654	4,27,098
1953 ..	9,347	75,795	6,120	44,551	9,857	58,143	5,732	36,718	53,559	4,34,202
1954 ..	8,499	64,171	5,943	41,343	9,590	54,121	5,000	29,118	51,222	4,00,051
1955 ..	7,737	55,915	5,644	37,516	9,745	52,917	3,793	21,933	48,000	3,64,353
1956 ..	7,649	57,111	6,722	48,570	10,740	57,002	4,164	23,863	50,754	4,03,255
1957 ..	11,319	85,008	7,702	53,685	12,884	70,006	7,102	37,701	65,712	4,75,118
1958 ..	12,101	90,106	8,190	58,362	13,596	73,632	7,491	39,973	71,760	5,20,566

The District Sub-Registrar's office at the headquarters of the district has got a big record room containing about 24,060 registers and indexes of all sub-registry offices situated in the district. These registers and books contain copies of documents registered since 1820. Strict secrecy with regard to the contents of documents copied in the register books, is maintained as in doing so it yields good income to the Government in the shape of searching and copying fees.

There are five Mohammedan Marriage Registrars' offices in the district, but only two Mohammedan Marriage Registrars, one at Monghyr and the other at Begusarai are functioning.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL TAXES.

The origin of the Commercial Taxes Department in Monghyr goes back to the 12th October, 1938 when the Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act came into operation. An office was then set-up in Monghyr for the purpose of efficient administration and proper collection of revenue under an Agricultural Income-tax Officer. The revenue of the district from agricultural income-tax was only Rs. 46,687-3 6 in 1939-40.

The activities of the department in the circle have remarkably expanded and the department now under the charge of a Superintendent of Commercial Taxes is concerned with the administration of the following enactments :—

- (1) Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1948.
- (2) Bihar Sales Tax Act, 1947.
- (3) Bihar Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) Act, 1939.
- (4) Bihar Entertainment Tax Act, 1948.
- (5) Bihar Electricity Duty Act, 1948.
- (6) Part III of the Bihar Finance Act, 1950 in regard to levy of tax on Passengers and Goods carried or transported by Public Service Vehicles and Public Carrier.

The Superintendent is now assisted by two Assistant Superintendents, one at Monghyr and another at Khagaria. There are now two Sub-Circles one at Khagaria and the other at Jamui.

Although the origin of the department can be traced as early as in the year 1938, the Commercial Taxes were really introduced long afterwards. It was the World War II that forced the attention of the fiscal authorities upon Sales Tax as a very suitable source of revenue and the Sales Tax Act was introduced in Bihar from 1st October, 1944. The Agricultural Income-tax-cum-Sales Tax Office came to be known as the Commercial Taxes Office.

The necessity of sales tax has been felt as an important means of meeting the deficit in the State's revenue when the nation-building activities of Government require large revenue. The sales

tax is not entirely a new system of taxation nor is it an outlandish innovation as some are prone to think

It was not unknown even in ancient India. We have read *Vyaji* in the "*Arthashastra*" of Kautilya who refers to trade tax in the following ways —

'The amount of *Vyaji* due on commodities sold by cubical measures is 1/16th of the quantity that on commodities sold by weighing balance is 1/20th of the quantity and that on commodities sold in numbers is 1/11th of the whole *

References to sales tax are also found in the *Sukranitisara* and other works, but the rate of tax seems to have been much less than that adopted by the Mauryas

Out of the last four enactments mentioned above the Entertainment Tax previously known as Entertainment Duty was in existence from 1937 while the Motor Spirit Tax was in operation from 1939. It was in 1948 that the administration of the above taxation measures was vested in this department. The last two measures were introduced to minimise the gap in State's revenue deficit due to increased expenditure on social services. It will thus be seen that out of a small beginning the department has grown to a vast organisation. The department is new but it bids fair to be the mainstay in State's revenue

The receipts of commercial taxes under different heads from 1951-52 to 1957-58 are given below —

Tax on	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
B S T	23 37 971	27 18 003	19 85 318	17 92 765	18 00 557	18 00 753	19 01 691
B A I T	4 71 413	5 36 060	5 21 296	2 49 052	2 27 273	1 67 776	1 15 000
M S	88 043	1 04 996	1 05 022	1 18 675	1 31,489	1 18 053	1 70,866
B P G T	59 976	77 542	62 213	54 542	80 246	1 84 980	1 00,960
Ele Duty	43 564	44 553	60 303	50 408	57 834	89 531	1 15 306
B Int Tax	1 90 492	2 12 635	1 84 426	1 75 153	2 26 444	2 35 226	2 49 505
Central S T (The C S T came into force with effect from 1st July 1957)							30 06

* Dr Ramasastri's translation (Mysore, 1929) Another view is that *Vyaji* was not a Sales tax or trade tax at all

From the taxation point of view, the Tobacco Manufacturers (India), Ltd, is the chief industry of the district which pays the maximum tax in this district. Lakhisarai and Khagaria markets are known for grains and *kirana* business, and Jhajha for *biri*. Apart from the Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Ltd, there is little industrial development in the district till 1960. Barauni area will, however, be fast developed into an industrial sector.

The district is agriculturally advanced and leaving a few places, the soil is rich and full of alluvium. Barhee is famous for *rabi* crops. In north Monghyr, *rabi* and money crops are grown. There are seven cinema houses, two at Monghyr, three at Jamalpur, one at Lakhisarai and one at Begusarai.

The roads in the district are not yet fully improved for motor vehicles and the transport tax or the motor spirit tax are therefore, not very important taxation measures in this district as in Chotanagpur or other places.

From the statistics given above it is apparent that there had been gradual increase in the revenue derived from the Motor Spirit Tax, Transport Duty, Electricity Duty and Entertainment Tax. But the revenue derived from Sales Tax and the Agricultural Income tax had recorded a fall. So far as the fall in Sales Tax is concerned it was mainly owing to exemption of tax on goods despatched outside the State and the raising of the registerable limit from over 10,000 to over 15,000 from 1954. The fall in the Agricultural Income tax was mainly due to taking over of the big zamindaris by State Government and the bad economic condition in general.

STAMPS

The revenue from stamps is an important source of income to the district exchequer. The receipts from this source increased from Rs 7,35,605 in 1924-25 to Rs 14,59,126 in 1956-57. The increase is mainly due to the rising demand for non-judicial stamps which rose to Rs 8,81,755 during 1956-57 as against Rs 1,44,435 in 1924-25. The revenue from judicial stamps rose to Rs 5,77,370 as against Rs 5,91,170 in 1924-25.

CHAPTER X

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION *

REVENUE HISTORY

Under the rule of the Mughal emperors the district appears to have been included in *Sarkars* Hajipur, Tirhut and Monghyr. The greater portion was apparently comprised within *Sarkar* Monghyr, which was assessed to Rs 7,41,000 by Todar Mal in 1582. According to Mr Grant's account (1787), this *Sarkar* was 'altogether or for the most part unsubdued and probably unexplored, as held by independent or refractory zamindars,' and we may perhaps accept his view that it was only included in the assessment owing to "the ambitious conquering policy of the Mughals, having always in prospect the entire subdivision of the lesser as well as the greater states of Hindostan†". However, this may be, *Sarkar* Monghyr must have embraced areas not included in the present district, for when the *Diwani* was taken over by the British in 1765, it extended over 8,270 square miles, assessed to a net revenue of Rs 8,08,000.

The district was constituted in 1832 by the transfer of several *parganas* from the districts of Bhagalpur, Bihar and Tirhut, the land revenue being, it is reported, Rs 3,82,330 paid by 1,049 estates with 5,583 registered proprietors. Two years later *pargana* Chakai was transferred from the district of Ramgarh, and other changes were made in 1839, 1845 and 1846. At that time the land revenue, excise and other revenue were, for the most part, paid into the treasury at Bhagalpur and the accounts were not kept separately. This continued to be the practice till 1850 when the land revenue of Monghyr was Rs 7,49,230, the number of estates being 3,581, and of proprietors or co-parceners 26,933. In 1874-75 the number of estates on the revenue roll had increased to 4,053 and the land revenue to Rs 9,40,340 and it is now nearly the same, the collections in 1907-08 being Rs 9,32,238. The number of estates has now increased to 10,360 but the land revenue continued practically the same till the abolition of zamindaris in 1950-51 when the total collection was Rs 9,27,127. Owing to the land revenue accounts of Monghyr not having been kept separately before 1850, it is not possible to have any comparison between the present land revenue and the figures for earlier years. It is, however, known that the demand increased largely during the first half of the nineteenth century as the result of resumption proceedings. At the Permanent Settlement a large proportion of the area was claimed as revenue free or *jagir* and escaped assessment. In fact, it is estimated that in eight *parganas*

* This text is largely based on this Chapter in the previous Gazetteer but brought up-to-date.

† Fifth Report of the Select Committee (Reprinted Madras 1883) Vol I pp. 507-8.

of North Monghyr, which were transferred to this district from Tirhut, one-eighth of the area was not assessed. By 1831, however, the resumption proceedings had raised their revenue from one to two lakhs. In *pargana* Pharkiya also the resumption proceedings instituted after the survey of 1835-1838 raised the demand from Rs. 46,226 in 1795-96 to Rs. 88,039 in 1846. The demand, which was progressive has since increased in that *pargana* to Rs. 1,26,238.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

The first provisional survey was carried out between 1835 and 1838 in *pargana* Pharkiya by Lt. Egerton. This survey was determined upon in order to demarcate certain *wairana* lands, i.e., tracts of waste land outside the orbit of the settled and cultivated villages, to which it was held that the Permanent Settlement did not extend. The survey was confined to boundaries and had neither the accuracy nor the completeness of the subsequent revenue survey. The latter was carried out in the rest of the district by Captain Sherwill in 1845-1847, the survey of *pargana* Pharkiya being formally given the dignity of a revenue survey. A survey of *diara* lands subsequently took place in 1865-66. The Srinagar-Banaili estate in North Monghyr, with an area of 174 square miles, was surveyed and settled between 1887 and 1894; and 47 square miles, in *thanas* Teghira and Begusarai were surveyed in 1895-96 in connection with the settlement of the Narhan estate (1893-1898). More recently survey and settlement operations have been extended to North Monghyr and to the Government estates south of Ganga, work being commenced in 1899 and concluded in 1904. The remaining area of South Monghyr was surveyed from the years 1905 to 1912.

ESTATES.

According to the Collectorate returns, the number of estates on the revenue roll in 1907-08 was 8,119, including 8,002 permanently settled estates, 61 temporarily settled estates and 56 estates held direct by Government and the current demand of land revenue was Rs. 9,26,000.* Now the estates on the revenue roll till 1950-51 had come to 10,360 including 10,222 permanently settled estates, 56 temporarily settled estates, and 82 estates held by Government under the direct management and the current demand of the land revenue on all estates was Rs. 9,36,884. Owing to the backward condition of the country at the time of the Permanent Settlement, its incidence is low, amounting only to one-tenth of the gross rental of the district. It is particularly low in North Monghyr, where only a small portion of the area was assessable even as late as 1850; and though a large increase in the demand was obtained in *pargana* Pharkiya in comparatively recent times, that assessment was necessarily low, because

* In 1923-24, the number of estates was 9,397 and the demand of land revenue was Rs. 9,74,079. There were 9,300 permanently settled, 68 temporarily settled estates; 29 estates were held direct by Government.

even then a large percentage of the area resumed was not under cultivation. In the total land revenue paying area of this portion of the district the incidence of revenue per acre is only annas 67, while the assets are Rs 299 per acre. Thus the zamindars of North Monghyr enjoy 85 per cent of the assets instead of 10 per cent, the normal share which was reserved to them by the Permanent Settlement.

Subdivision of property is known to have gone on rapidly, the number of estates on the revenue roll rising from 4,053 in 1874-75 to 8,119 in 1907-08, and to 9,397 in 1924. Apart, moreover, from partitions recognised by Government, private partition has gone to extreme lengths. In North Monghyr, for instance (for which alone accurate statistics are available), though the total number of estates according to the Collector's registers is 4,367, the Settlement Officer had to frame 9,730 separate records of proprietary interests. Also, it was found that 901 estates had been privately partitioned into no less than 5,899 *pattis* or shares, for each of which a separate sub-record had to be prepared. Nine per cent of the revenue paying and 10 per cent of the revenue free estates had been privately partitioned and on an average there were 7 *pattis* in each estate. The number of proprietors was 83,410 and was greatest (21 on the average) in privately partitioned revenue-paying estates and least (3 on the average) in jointly held revenue free properties, many of which are of a petty size.

The area belonging to each proprietor is extremely small, enquiry showing that an average village of 599 acres is ordinarily divided among six *pattis*, with no less than 51 proprietors and that each proprietor's share is only about 12 acres. In Gogri thana an estate averages 285 acres and each proprietor's interest 69 acres, but in thanas Teghira and Begusarai the estates are exceptionally small averaging only 40 to 70 acres respectively, while each proprietor's share is 4 and 5 acres respectively. In these two latter thanas alone *kheuts*, or records of proprietary interest, had to be prepared for no less than 26,011 estates, 9,831 *pattis* and 68,237 landlords, the smallest recorded subdivision of proprietary rights being $1/2,480,000$ of an anna. In a single plot of land the area of which was just over half an acre, there were 1,582 co-sharers, each of whose shares represented only, 00036 of an acre, or $7\frac{1}{4}$ square feet.

A special enquiry was also made by the Settlement Officers regarding the transfer of proprietary rights during a period of ten years in nearly a third of the area of North Monghyr. It was found that one out of every five *pattis* had been transferred by sale in whole or in part, and that just under one eighth of the area of the selected villages had changed hands in the decade.

ZAMINDARI ABOLITION

With the enactment of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, Government decided to take over all the zamindaris and tenures in

the district. The estates and tenures of 24 big proprietors each having an income of above Rs 50,000 were notified under the Bihar Land Reforms Act in 1951 and possession was taken for the purposes of management in 1952. The other estates and tenures were gradually notified and possession taken over. Thus by individual notifications as many as 4,956 estates were taken over by the State in this district.

In notification no 5404-L.R., dated the 21st September, 1954, Government published their intention to take over all estates and tenures in this district. This intention of Government was circulated to each village by beat of drums and a copy of the proclamation was also hung up at conspicuous places in villages. The zamindars and other intermediaries were asked to file *jamabandis* of their estates in authenticated manner so that there may not be any difficulty in management of their estates and also in payment of compensation. After this there was another notification from Government, viz, no 631 L.R., dated the 26th January, 1955 and all the estates vested in State Government on the 26th January, 1955. The intermediaries showed apathy and they did not furnish complete *jamabandis*. In cases of some petty zamindars, no return has yet been filed and steps have been taken to compile *jamabandis suo moto* after contacting the tenants in villages.

As many as 21,819 *tauzis* (both revenue paying and revenue free) now stand vested in State Government. Although by the above notification all the estates in the district stand vested, Government have not yet taken possession over the estates of Shri Laldhari Singh of Begusarai subdivision and 8 annas interest of Banaili Raj. This is due to the fact that injunction orders in respect of these estates have been issued by Patna High Court and they have not yet vacated the same. Since Government are entitled to rent, etc., after vesting on 26th January 1955, steps are being taken to get the injunction orders vacated as early as possible.

KATCHERY BUILDING

As many as 296 *katchery* buildings have also been taken over from the outgoing landlords. But in respect of many *kacheries* enquiries regarding their release are pending. According to recent Government instructions, *katchery* buildings which were partly used as *katchery* and partly as residence will be released after due enquiry by gazetted officers.

VILLAGE WISE RECORD

It has been stated above that zamindars and other intermediaries do not co-operate with the scheme of taking over their interest and as such they did not furnish the full information of the estates held by them. With a view to get full information and also to ascertain the correct position, village wise records have to be compiled. In these records the information as regarding the number of intermediaries, the rent and cess collected by them, miscellaneous income

from *sairats*, etc., *gairmazaruwa am* and *khas* lands, pasture and community lands, village irrigation sources and important matters concerning the villages are obtained

FIELD BUJHARAT OPERATION

Many changes have been brought in tenancy and intermediaries have failed to furnish details about the present position. With a view to get the present correct position in connection with tenancy, field *bujharat* operation has been taken up. In this operation *bujharat* is taken from *khata* no 1 of a particular village and all changes in the names of the owners and also in nature of tenancy are noted in a separate register on the basis of the *khatian* of the village. This will give an idea of the actual owners of the lands and it will facilitate in realisation of rent. Unassessed areas will also come to notice and in this way the correct collectable *jama* will be ascertained. Areas available on settlement will also be located and settlement will be made with poorer section of the people.

According to the last survey there are 4,729 villages and 33 36 326 plots in this district. Field *bujharat* work in respect of 3 646 villages and 32,01,201 plots has so far been done. In respect of other villages, it is in progress and it will take some time more to finalise the records.

UNITS OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

With the object of managing the revenue work, development and other administrative work, the district has been divided into 39 *Anchal cum* Development Blocks. In the Sadar subdivision there are 12 *Anchal cum* Development Blocks, in Begusarai 11, and Khagaria and Jamui subdivisions have each 8 *Anchal cum* Development Blocks. Each *Anchal cum* Development Block has nearly 100 villages and 20 *Gram Panchayats*, containing 9 to 12 *halkas* generally. The lowest unit of administration is *halqa* which is manned by a *Karamchari* and a *Tahsil* peon. There are 390 *halkas* in this district each having a *Karamchari* and a *Tahsil* peon. In addition to these, there are 39 leave reserve *Karamcharies*. Each *Anchal cum* Development Block has got an *Anchal Adhikari* (Sub Deputy Collector) and the Circle Inspector is the link between the *Karamcharies* and the *Anchal Adhikaris* and he is responsible for maintenance of proper accounts by *Karamcharies*. At present 27 *anchals* are functioning and remaining 12 are tagged with them for management but their accounts and records are kept separately so that there may not be any difficulty at the time of separating the management of the tagged *anchals*.

Most of the *Anchal Adhikaris* and *Karamcharies* have no buildings to locate their offices. Steps have been taken for construction of new buildings and in course of a few years suitable buildings will be constructed.

In addition to the above staff, there is an Additional Collector to assist the Collector in looking after zamindari affairs at the district headquarters. At the subdivisional headquarters, there is a Deputy Collector in charge of Land Reforms and Development Work (one for each subdivision) and the Subdivisional Officers manage the work of revenue and other administrative work with their assistance.

COLLECTABLE JAMA OF THE DISTRICT.

The total collectable *jama* of the district as ascertained up to the year 1956-57 was Rs. 50,28,455 including rent, cess and *sairats* of both Government and vested estates. But on the basis of various revenue reports, Shri K. K. Mitra, I.A.S., Director of Land Records and Surveys, Government of Bihar has pointed out that the probable rent roll of the district should not be less than Rs. 70,60,762 besides the income from mines, forests, *sairats* and other sources. There is still a large sum to be ascertained as collectable *jama* of the district. The big gap in the collectable *jama* to be ascertained includes the demand of two estates of 8 annas Banaili Estate and of Shri Laldhari Singh's Estate and also the *jama* to be arrived at by fixation of rent on *Bakasht Khud Kast* and other unassessed lands. A large number of cases have been instituted on fixation of rent in *anchals* and steps are being taken to dispose of such cases as quickly as possible.

As against the above collectable *jama* a sum of Rs. 51,78,833 was realised in 1955-56 and Rs. 33,65,016 in the year 1956-57. There was fall in collection figure due to drought and failure of *rabi* crops.

While the vesting of estates was going on, the intermediaries also realised rent for the period after vesting of their estates. Information goes to show that a sum of Rs. 31,29,856 in respect of rent, Rs. 27,954 in respect of cess and Rs. 42,626 in respect of *sairats* were realised by outgoing landlords in excess. They have to refund the amounts realised in excess. Arrangement is being made to recover them by deduction from compensation money payable to them.

SAIRAT INCOME.

The main income from *sairats* in this district is from *jalkars*, *ghats*, *hats* and *bazars*. Miscellaneous revenue also accrues from settlement of *mahuwa* flowers, products of *semal* trees, palm and *khajur* trees, and also from birds. The annual income from *sairats* is Rs. 3,52,373 but it is fluctuating every year.

IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

According to the Government instructions, 12½ per cent of the 80 per cent of the collection is to be spent over the work of improvement in vested and Government estates. In addition to this 2½ per cent is allowed on repairs and maintenance of *hatcheries*. The improvement grants are utilised in maintaining irrigational sources which were the responsibility of the ex-landlords according to *fard-ab-pashi* records-of-right and *missil sailabi*, maintenance of village

roads, educational institutions and other schemes in the interest of tenants. A sum of Rs 4,18,000 and Rs 3,21,940 were spent on account of improvement schemes in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively.

AD INTERIM PAYMENT

As many as 40,693 returns have been filed by intermediaries in this district and cases for *ad interim* payment in respect of 39,775 returns have already been started. A sum of Rs 22,62,490 has so far been paid as *ad interim* payment. As regards payment of final compensation action for preparation of compensation assessment rolls is being taken. So far 27,919 cases in connection with payment of final compensation have been started in this district. Steps for starting cases in remaining cases have also been taken up and it is expected that final compensation will be paid early.

ABOLITION OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF COLLECTORATE

As a result of abolition of zamindaris in this district, Khasmahal has merged in Land Reforms Section. Tauzi and Cess Department has been named as Rent and Cess Section, a part of the Land Reforms Section. Batwara Section is no longer in existence. After mutation of the name of the State of Bihar, the Land Registration Section will also be abolished very shortly.

ZIRAT OR KAMAT

Out of the total area occupied by landlords in North Monghyr, only 619 acres have been recorded as *zirat* or proprietors' private land and 311 acres in South Monghyr. Under *kamat*, or *zirat*, are locally included all lands in the landlords' cultivating possession, as well as lands which, though settled with tenants, have at any time been bought in by the landlord at sales of *rayati* holdings for arrears of rent. Nearly 5 per cent of the total number of tenancies, covering 10 per cent of the occupied area, were recorded as *balasht malik*, that is to say, as in the cultivating possession of the proprietor, but not proprietor's private land.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

There are 138 Government estates in Monghyr, of which 56 are temporarily settled while 28 are held under direct management. Altogether, 79 were surveyed and settled at the same time in North Monghyr or later and these constitute the bulk of the Government estates, the remainder being (1) the four temporarily settled Bhaishunda Mahals, which will be mentioned later, (2) some town estates, such as Monghyr fort, and (3) a number of petty mofussil estates, consisting of a plot or two marking the site of an abandoned police outpost, cattle pound, etc. Of the 79 estates dealt with 32 estates, with an area of 95 square miles, lie in North Monghyr, and 57 estates, with an area of 57 square miles, are situated south of the Ganga.

The position with regard to Government estates in the district has now changed. Due to purchase of several estates and formation of new inlands, the number of Government estates has now come to 138 of which 56 are temporarily settled while 26 are held under direct management and 30 which were leased on firms or with the proprietors have now vested in State Government with effect from 26th November, 1955. All the estates have been surveyed from time to time either under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act or under Regulation VII of 1822. The total *jama* of the entire Government estates is Rs 1,71,527 covering an area of 158 square miles.

There was a separate unit for administration of Government estates. But this unit has merged in Land Reforms Section with effect from 1st September, 1955 and the estates have been transferred on management to various *anchals*. But their accounts are kept separately from vested estates.

The largest class of estates, consisting mainly of *diara* estates, include those resumed at different dates, but mostly between 1825 and 1840, under Regulation II of 1819. Forty of these are either *Izad Mahals*, viz, lands not included in the original settlement through mistake, or subsequent accretions or formations by alluvion. Besides these, there are eight estates (five in Gogri, one in Surajgarha and two in Sheikhpura) which are known as *Wairana Mahals*. Those in the north of the district were portions of *tappa* Suraunja, which was entirely waste at the time of the Permanent Settlement, and was, therefore, excluded from settlement. Those in the south were unsettled waste lands lying within the ambit of *parganas* settled with the Raja of Kharagpur, and of which he refused settlement, when it was proposed to resume them. Another group includes 15 estates which were at one time permanently settled estates in the *diaras*, for which the proprietors took remission of revenue, when it was discovered during the revenue survey that they had diluviated. They were taken possession of by Government, on their subsequent reformation, and in some cases managed direct and in others leased to farmers or to the original proprietors. Ten estates came into the hands of Government at different times by purchases at revenue sales, five others were formed from excess or *amanat* lands out of the area purchased by Government from Bunia Singh, the principal zamindar of *pargana* Pharkiya in the beginning of the nineteenth century and from other proprietors, for distribution in the shape of revenue free grants among the East India Company's pensioned or invalid sepoys. One estate represents land acquired for railway purposes. The following is an account of the distribution of the estates in the different *thanas* of the district —

Begusarai *thana* contains 10 *diara* estates covering an area of over 30 square miles, of which the majority lie within fairly easy reach of Begusarai town. There are also 21 inland estates grouped round Sisauni, about

6 miles north of the railway near the Burhi Gandak river, which cover, all told, an area of less than 2 square miles. The largest estates are Arazī Bhawanandpur with an area of over 17 square miles, Jafarnagar nearly 5 square miles in extent, and Mahazī Bhawanandpur and Akbarpur Barari covering about $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 square miles respectively.

Gogri thana contains 8 inland estates, covering an area of over 21 square miles, and 7 diara estates, viz., five estates which as mentioned below have been recently traced, Tetrabad, which is only 8 acres in extent, and Binda diara which has an area of 43 square miles. The estate last named is now bisected by the Ganga, and for police purpose is divided into two estates, Shumali and Janubi, of which the former is in the jurisdiction of Gogri thana and the latter of Monghyr thana. Of the inland estates, all except Parbatta which is not far from Binda diara are of considerable size, Cherekhera, Agar and Dhanpura lie some 16 miles north of Khagaria railway station, not far from where the Tiljuga enters the district, Goas and Morasi are even more inaccessible, lying off away from good road some 10 miles north of Maheshkhunt station, Arazī Jalkar Mohani is close to Jamalpur Gogri. These six large estates contain mostly low lands suitable for paddy cultivation, while in the small one, Parbatta, high lands predominate and the *bhada* and *rabi* harvests are the most important. For the sake of facility in collection and agricultural statistics survey, Binda diara estates have been subdivided in nine *tolas*, viz., Harinmar, Jhawa bahar, Fulkia, Mirza, Jhakahwa, Ekasi, Antiram Prem and Behari *tolas*.

In 1908, after the conclusion of the settlement, four petty estates, which were purchased by Government at revenue sales and were long treated as diluviated, were traced and brought under direct management. These estates are called Jagir Raushan Khan, Naik Thana Jafra, Jagir Basti Singh, Sipahi Thana Jafra, Jagir Manik Singh, Sipahi Thana Jafra and Jagir Gurdayal, Naik Thana Jafra. The fifth estate, entitled Dund Sukul, Naik Thana Jafra has partly come out of water. The other remaining estates have been purchased at revenue sales.

In thana Monghyr there are 50 Government and temporarily settled estates with an area of 56 square miles. There are two inland estates, Amanat Sarkar, Itahri and Bargoria, which cover barely 120 acres between

them, though the lands of the former are scattered over no less than 7 villages, some of which are near Banarpur railway station and others near Jamalpur. Of the *diara* estates, Kutlupur, Tarapur and Zamin Digri (or Decree) are the largest, Kutlupur covering 20 square miles, Tarapur about 13, and Zamin Digri nearly 9 square miles or 42 square miles in all. Tarapur adjoins Binda *diara*, Zamin Digri is close to Monghyr fort and railway station, while Kutlupur is some 14 miles west on the border of *thanas* Monghyr and Surajgarha. A number of petty estates are grouped just opposite or alongside Monghyr town, and the remainders are midway between Monghyr and Kutlupur. For the sake of collection and agricultural statistics, Kutlupur has been subdivided into five *tolas*, viz., Bahadurnagar Khurd, Bahadurnagar Kalan, Kutlupur Khas, Chaitola and Nawbarar.

In Surajgarha *thana*, there are 12 estates covering a little more than 8 square miles, but Rahatpur with an area of 3 square miles, and Kherho Parapur covering a little over 1 square mile, are the only two of importance. Ratanpur and five other petty *diara* estates are all fairly close to Surajgarha, while the inland estates are grouped round Lakhisarai and Kiul.

In Sheikhpura *thana* Government holds 7 estates situated some 16 miles south of the station of that name, they cover an area of about one and half square miles.

There are other more 13 estates which are either under direct management or temporarily settled estates since vested in State Government under the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act 1950. They lie in Kharagpur, Jamui and Jhajha police-stations. They are all petty inland estates covering an area of about one square mile. These estates have been purchased at revenue sales.

Besides there are three tracts of B-class relinquished railway lands extending from Jamalpur to Barhaya and from Lakhisarai to Simultala and they cover an area of one third of a square mile. The income from these estates is deposited under head 'Railway Revenue' after deducting 10 per cent as management cost.

The effect of the rent settlement concluded before 1908 has been to increase the rent roll in estates under direct management from Rs 53,319 to Rs 64,518 or by 21 per cent and the incidence of revenue is now Rs 269 per acre. Assuming alterations in allowances to settlement holders and farmers the revenue of temporarily settled estates has been increased from Rs 36,235 to Rs 44,451 or by 22 per cent, and of farmed estates from Rs 14,371 to Rs 19,847 or by 37 per cent. There had been no alteration in the revenue demand of these two latter classes of estates for periods varying from

20 to 30 years and the incidence of the new revenue is Rs 1 10 7 and Rs 1 12 9 respectively

After the previous rent settlements there have been periodical surveys according to which rent has been revised and enhanced on the basis of rises in price and change in nature of soil. As a result of this the rent roll in the estates under direct management has been raised from Rs 64 518 to Rs 1,67,601 and the incidence of revenue per acre is now Rs 2 9 3 or Rs 2 57 nP per acre

Of the total number of holdings in Government estates 68 per cent have been recorded with rights of occupancy three fourths of these being *diara* holdings occupied for more than 12 years continuously 31 per cent have been recorded as non-occupancy the majority of which are also *diara*. Some difficulty about status arose from the practice once common in Monghyr of granting large speculative leases of unculturable *diara* to residents of Monghyr who had no intention of cultivating for themselves but took leases at low rates in the hope of being able to make a profit by sub leasing later at high rates. The terms of the original lease made it necessary in some cases for the Settlement Officers to record speculative tenure holders as *raiya*ts, and this accounts for the number of under *raiya*ts tenancies recorded. But at present all have acquired the right of occupancy *raiya*ts

BHAISUNDA MAHALS

The estates known as the Bhaishunda Mahals are a curious survival of the early settlement of *pargana* Pharkiya. At the time of the decennial settlement revenue was specially and separately assessed on the assets derivable from grazing fees. This assessment was called *bhaishunda* and continued to be made even after the Permanent Settlement. When resumption proceedings were started in the *pargana* and the land settlement was made permanent the Bhaishunda settlement still continued to be temporary. The result of this arrangement of the numerous changes in ownership which have taken place during the period that has since elapsed of the enormous increase in the cultivated area and the corresponding decrease in the area suitable for grazing is that in recent years there have been constant defaults of the settlement holders of the Bhaishunda Mahals who are in most cases not the proprietors of the villages in which those mahals lie. Of late years it has been difficult to get any one to take up their settlement and it has consequently been proposed by the Settlement Officer that these *mahals* should be struck off the revenue roll when the current terms of settlement expire. Bhaishunda Mahals are no longer now in existence.

The 1905-07 settlement has shown that in North Monghyr rent paying tenures cover 19 per cent of the area and rent free tenures 2 per cent, and that only 4 per cent is sublet. Subinfeudation

ordinarily extends only to the first degree and is not of the complicated character so common in Lower Bengal. The area cultivated by tenure holders themselves is less than 3 per cent of the occupied area. The average area of their holdings is least in Begusarai and Teghra, and largest in Gogri. In the former two *thanas* indigo planters form the bulk of the tenure-holders, and as they hold from numerous petty proprietors, the size of the holdings is naturally small. In Gogri, on the other hand, there is less subdivision of proprietary interests, and the tenure holders are largely *thikadars* holding entire villages, in which the comparative cheapness and unproductiveness of the land tend to swell the size of the holdings, which they keep in their direct cultivation.

With the vesting of the estates all tenures have also vested in the State under the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

RENT FREE TENURES

The most numerous rent free tenures consist of religious grants, mostly of a small size. A considerable area is covered by maintenance grants made by proprietors to their relatives, and a small quantity of land is held under service tenures. There are also 87 *malikana* grants consisting of lands held rent free in perpetuity by former proprietors, though few in number, their average area (nearly 10 acres) is considerable. All rent free estates have vested in the State Government under the provisions of Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, and steps are being taken to assess rent on them.

RENT PAYING TENURES

The great majority of the rent paying tenures are temporary. Less than one quarter are permanent tenures, and the area occupied by them is only 2 per cent of the total area and one eighth of that occupied by temporary tenures. Of the latter most are farming leases, and nearly all the remainder are leases on *zarpeshgi*, i.e., usufructuary mortgages. A small minority are of a miscellaneous character, such as *satua patua*, under which both principal and interest are liquidated by the annual rent paid by the mortgagees. All such tenures have also vested in the State Government under the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

INDIGO FACTORIES

Indigo planters were the most numerous class of tenure holders in this part of the district holding, according to the settlement returns, 47,102 acres in *thanas* Teghra and Begusarai as temporary tenure holders and under tenure holders, besides 9,912 acres as proprietors. Permanent tenures only cover 1,450 acres, and are mostly small areas leased from the proprietors or purchased from previous holders with the express object of providing a safe location for the factory buildings. Altogether the planters were interested as landlords in 13 per cent of the whole Begusarai subdivision.

The predominance of temporary tenures is very marked and is due to the fact that, until recent years, the average planter considered it more profitable to be a temporary lessee than a proprietor except, perhaps, of a share in a village or two adjoining the factory. "Temporary tenures", writes Mr. Coupland, "have been the planter's main stand by. Native proprietors were, as a rule, only too ready to find some one who would pay them something more than the average rent roll of the village, and the planter by this means not only got a certain amount of land for indigo, i.e., the proprietors' *bakashi* lands for direct cultivation and some percentage (usually 5 per cent or *panchkathiya*) of the *raiyat's* holdings for cultivation either direct or through the tenant but he also acquired local influence and opportunities for securing labour. It was not to the planter's interest to enhance rents or harass the tenants in any way, and, hence, here as everywhere in Bihar, the indigo planter as *thikadar* has been, as a general rule, the most considerate of landlords."

TENURES IN SOUTH MONGHYR

*Kharagpur Ghatwali Tenures **

"In South Monghyr a number of estates were formerly on the *ghatwali* tenure especially in the Kharagpur estate. The origin and nature of these tenures have been described as follows in a judgment delivered by the Privy Council in 1855†: "The mountain or hill districts in India were inhabited by lawless tribes asserting a wild independence, often of a different race and different religion from the inhabitants of the plains, who were frequently subjected to marauding expeditions by their more warlike neighbours. To prevent these incursions it was necessary to guard and watch the *ghats*, or mountain passes, through which these hostile descents were made, and the Muhammadan rulers established a tenure, called *ghatwali* tenure, by which lands were granted to individuals, often a high rank, at a low rent, or without rent, on condition of their performing these duties and protecting and preserving order in the neighbouring districts. Nothing could be more deplorable than the state of the province under this system. Murder and rapine were common throughout the country, more than half the lands were waste and uncultivated, and neither the *ryots* nor the Zamindars had any inducement to improve them, as any increase in their value had only the effect of increasing the Government assessment.

"It was considered by the East India Coy. that the first step towards a better system of Government and the amelioration of the condition of their subject would be to convert the zamindars into landlords, and to fix a permanent annual *jama* or assessment to the

* Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926)

† Lilanand Singh Vs Government of Bengal, Moore's Indian Appeals Vol VI p 101, etc

Government according to the existing value, so as to leave to the land proprietors, the benefit of all subsequent improvements. Accordingly they determined to make the assessment in the first instance for a period of ten years, with a view to its being ultimately made permanent." After describing the decennial settlement, the judgment goes on to say that at this time Raja Kadir Ali was the Zamindar of Kharagpur 'a considerable principality including many parganas', and that a very large quantity of land had been granted by his ancestors on the *ghatwali* tenure.

"The extent and particulars of these vast estates, and the nature of the *ghatwali* tenures, were well known to the Government of Bengal at the time when the settlement was made. Some years before, in consequence of disturbances which had taken place in the country during the time of Kadir Ali's father, the Government had found it necessary to interfere with a military force, and having displaced the then Raja and restored tranquility, had placed the zamindari under the charge of one of their own officers. Mr Augustus Cleveland, who had the management of it up to the year 1781, about which time Kadir Ali (his father having died) was put into possession of the Raj. It appears that Mr Cleveland, during the time that he was in charge of these estates, had granted no less than 87,084 *bighas* of land upon *ghatwali* tenure in conformity with the orders of Government. It appears from another evidence that the grants before Mr Cleveland's time to the *ghatwals* reserved a payment of two annas per *bigha* as a fee or perquisite to the zamindar, that some *sanads* were granted unadvisedly by Mr Cleveland without such reservation, but that he afterwards insisted on such payment being made to the Government while he was in charge on behalf of the Government and that all grants subsequently made by the Raja of Kharagpur contained the same reservation.

"In 1813 a report was made by the Collector of Bhagalpur to the Magistrate of Birbhum in answer to certain enquiries with respect to *ghatwali* lands in his district. The Collector states that the *ghatwali* lands in his district are of four kinds. First, the lands already referred to as granted by Mr Cleveland. These he states to have been allotted in environs of the forests, at the foot of certain mountains to certain *ghatwals* and watchmen, in lieu of salaries, to attend to and guard the watch stations at the passes, and to patrol the precincts of the villages, that no mountaineers might be able to descend from those passes of the mountains to commit night attacks, to invade or assault or to plunder money or cattle, or to create disturbance. The second class the report describes as 'the *ghatwals* attached to the Kharagpur estates who pay a stipulated rate of rent of their lands and villages being bound to protect and guard the highways to watch the stations at the passes, to prevent disturbance being created by the mountaineers, thieves and highwaymen. They hold their lands in virtue of *sanads* granted by the zamindar of

Kharagpur except some who have received theirs from the former authorities'

'The report then proceeds to state that when the zamundar or Government authority, wishes to appoint a *ghatwal* to guard the frontiers of the villages, it is his duty to ascertain the produce of the villages, the quantity of *ghatwali* lands therein, and deducting a certain rate in the ratio of the guards with the *ghatwals*, in lieu of wages to fix a certain rent to be paid by the *ghatwals*. After mentioning other descriptions of *ghatwali* lands he states his opinion that the *ghatwals* have no right of inheritance or proprietary interest in their lands but hold right of possession as long as they perform the terms and conditions of their *sanads*. The report then states that at the time of the decennial settlement the *ghatwals* were not treated as independent *talukdars*, that no settlement was made with them, but that they were included in the settlement of the zamundar of whom their lands were held. In 1816 another report was made by the Collector of Bhagalpur in which it is stated that the *ghatwal's* pay a fixed rent to the Zamindar of Kharagpur, and continue under his control, direction and subjection while the Raja is answerable to the Collector for the rents of the entire district of Kharagpur.

Under the provisions of the decennial settlement, the Bengal Government in 1790, assessed the whole of the zamindari of Kharagpur, including *ghatwali* lands at a fixed *jama*. This settlement was made perpetual in 1796 under the Bengal Regulation I of 1793 at the same fixed *jama*. In 1838, the Government set up a claim to resume the *ghatwali* lands for the purpose of revenue assessment but the claim was dismissed, on the grounds that (1) the *ghatwali* lands were part of the zamindari of Kharagpur, were included in the permanent settlement and were covered by the *jama* assessed on that zamindari and (2) lands held under *ghatwali* tenure were not liable to resumption under Regulation I of 1793.

At the time this suit was instituted the Kharagpur estate was still in possession of the Raja of Kharagpur, but it was sold up for arrears of land revenue in 1840 and purchased by Raja Bidyanand Singh the grandfather of the present proprietors of the Binnah estate, and by Balnath Sahu who next year transferred his interest to Bidyanand Singh. On his death the suit was carried up to the Privy Council by his son and heir Raja Lilanand Singh. It was then decided that the Kharagpur *ghatwali* tenures are perpetual and hereditary grants of land, which cannot be resumed by Government. After this decision, the *ghatwali* tenures were restored and the Raja instituted suits to resume Government, however, ruled in 1863 that the *ghatwali* services were still demanded from him and that so long as Government demanded them he could not resume the tenure. The Raja thereupon agreed to pay Rs 10 000 a year in lieu of the services for which he was responsible, he being left to make what

arrangements the Courts would allow his *ghatwals*. When, however, he instituted suits in 1864, the Courts decided that although Government had dispensed with the *ghatwals'* services, the lands could not be resumed and that the *ghatwals* had permanent hereditary tenures at a fixed *jama* and could not be evicted except for misconduct*. On the other hand it was held in 1866, in another case, on a consideration of the terms of a lease under which a *ghatwal* held his lands, that the zamindar could resume them when the *ghatwali* services were no longer required†

"There have been numerous other cases regarding the *ghatwali* tenures of Kharagpur, in which their legal incidents have been laid down. In one case it was decided the lands of the *ghatwals* are not capable of alienation by private sale or otherwise and are not liable to sale in execution of decrees, except with consent of the zamindar and his approval of the purchaser as a substitute for the outgoing *ghatwal*‡. In another case it was held (1) that a *ghatwali* tenure in Kharagpur is transferable, if the zamindar assents and accepts the transfer, which assent and acceptance may be presumed from the fact of the zamindar having made no objection to a transfer for a period of over 12 years, and (2) that in dealing with a *ghatwali* tenure the Court must have regard to the nature of the tenure itself, and to the rules of law laid down in regard to such tenures, and not to any particular school of law or the customs of any particular family, inasmuch as a *ghatwali*, being created for a specific purpose, has its own particular incidents and cannot be subject to any system of law effecting only a particular class or family. In the latter case it was pointed out that there is this difference between the *ghatwals* of Birbhum and those of Kharagpur that the former are appointed by Government, and the latter by the zamindar**

"Most of the *ghatwali* tenures of Kharagpur have now been sold up by the proprietors of the Banahi Raj and let out on *mukarari* leases. A portion of village Mangrar in *pargana* Parbatpara is still held in *mukarari* by the descendants of the former *ghatwals* who retain the title of Thakur, but the other *mukararidars* are outsiders lawyers of Bhagalpur, Banyas of Jamui, etc." With the vesting of all estates the tenures in question have also vested in State Government under the provisions of L. R. Act

Chakri Ghatwali Tenures §

Originally the estates in *pargana* Chakri to the south were similarly held on *ghatwali* tenure. About 1774 the lawless state of this tract led

* *Manorajan Singh Vs Lilanand Singh* (3 W. R. 84)

† *Lilanand Singh Vs Sarwan Singh* (5 W. R. 292)

‡ *Lilanand Singh Vs Durgabati* W. R. Sp. no. 1864 249, *Guman Singh Vs Grant* II W. R. 292.

** *Ananda Rai Vs Kali Prasad Singh* (1 L. R. 10 Cal. 677, S. C. 15 Cal. 471)

§ Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926)

the British to place it in charge of Captain James Browne, who settled the estates with the *ghatwals* with two exceptions. These two exceptions were Dumri and Mahesri which were settled directly with the proprietors, the story being that the *ghatwali* tenure-holders fled at the approach of Captain Browne, their reputation as dacoits and brigands being too strong for them to face a Government officer without fear of the consequences. In the case of Dumri, however, the *ghatwals*, finding that in their absence a settlement had been made of their tenure, returned and obtained a *sanad* settling with them under the Raja of Gidhaur. Of the estates settled with *ghatwals*, only two are now held by their descendants viz, Tilwa and Kewal. The others had passed into the hands of the Maharaja of Gidhaur, Chetru Rai, Alleswar Prasad and others of Rohini.

With the vesting of all estates in the State Government all such tenures have since vested in the State Government.

*Ghatwali Mukararis **

"The ruin of the *ghatwals* of Chakai was attributed to their improvement system of management and to their family customs. Generally, the eldest male member in the nearest line of descent succeeds to the *gadi*, as it is called, though occasionally the widow of a proprietor has been allowed to hold as *Thakurani*. Other members of the family are provided for by *mukarari* grants called *babuwana*, which are generally inherited by the descendants of the original grantee, though they originally were meant for the support of the grantee during his life time only. A *mukarari* which terminates with the life of the grantee is known as *hinhayati*. In addition to *mukararis* granted to members of the family, the *ghatwals* used to lease out large areas of jungle land in perpetual *mukarari*, at a nominal rental, for the extension of cultivation. Numerous rent free grants were also made as service and religious tenures on the slightest grounds. The proprietors' rent roll thus stood little chance of increasing while their expenditure was in excess of their income. They consequently got deeply into debt, and had to mortgage their estates, which were subsequently sold up in liquidation of the debts and purchased by the mortgagees. The *mukarari* tenures granted by them have in most cases passed into the hands of the new land lords either by purchase or by forcible resumption, and in Chikai not many had survived."

With the vesting of estates in State Government Chikai *mukararis* are no longer in existence.

THIKA SYSTEM **

Another interesting class of land tenures was that known as the *thika* or *mustajiri*, which was common in the Jamui subdivision.

* District Gazetteer of Monghyr (1926)

** Ibid.

Here few villages were held directly under the proprietor. The majority were held by *thikadars* or *mustajirs*, who, in the more highly cultivated village of Jamui *thana*, were mere farmers, of rent. They make their profit, for the most part, out of the cultivation of lands which they hold by virtue of their position as *thikadars*, but in the more or less *jungly* villages, which make up the greater part of the subdivisions, they have a status which it is often difficult to define. In the course of the settlement proceedings, these *thikadars* have been divided into three classes. (1) First, there is the ordinary farmer, an outsider pure and simple, who takes on *thika* a village with which he has no previous connection, with the object of collecting rents and making a profit out of the margin between his collections and the amount payable under the lease. Persons of this class are being recorded *ijaradars*. (2) There is next the case where the proprietor has given a *thika* lease to a person, who prior to the execution of the lease, was a *rayat* of the village and had occupancy rights in his lands. He is also being recorded as an *ijaradar*, but the lands in which he had previously acquired occupancy rights are recorded as his occupancy lands. (3) The third kind of the *thikadar* is the person who originally received from the proprietor a reclamation lease for the village, *tola* or *chak* in question. In some instances the original lease is still extant, and is called a *chakband* lease. It defines by boundaries the area within which the lessee has the right to reclaim and the original rent fixed. In a few cases that rent has not been changed to the present day, but in the majority of cases there have been frequent enhancements of rent. Such enhancements have often been accompanied by the execution of new *thika* leases or *miadi kabuliyats* for periods usually of seven years. The original lease is not produceable in many cases, but from the history and circumstances of the village or *chak* it may generally be inferred without any doubt that such a lease did exist, or that the predecessor in interest of the present *thikadar*, began his connection with the tenancy on a verbal agreement which had the same effect as a *chakband* lease. These cases are being dealt with under the relevant provisions of the Tenancy Act. For instance, if the present holder can show that the lands within the tenancy now in his own occupation were reclaimed by himself or by his predecessors in interest, the presumption will be that he is a *rayat* for the whole area. If it appears that the original lessee at once sublet the whole or most of it to other persons introduced by him for purposes of reclamation, and that the lands, if any, held by him were originally reclaimed by others, it may be presumed that the present lessee is a tenure holder. In the great majority of cases, however, the terms of the Bengal Tenancy Act, read in the light of the facts, necessitate the conclusion that the tenancy is *rayati*.

“The following account of the *thika* system is extracted from a note contributed by the Settlement Officer. The system originated in the grant of a tract of jungle land for the purpose of reclamation

to some *raiya*, who generally belonged to one of the aboriginal tribes such as the Santals, Naiyas or Bhuiyas. The first lease was granted on a very low rent to be paid for a term of years, generally seven years. The original lessee, with the members of his family and some fellow castemen as partners, built their huts on the land and subsisting at first mainly on *mahua* and other produce of the jungle commenced to clear the forest, dam up streams, and carve their beds and banks into fields. With the gradual increase of cultivation the rent was enhanced at the end of every septennial period, not on any accurate computation of the amount of cultivation, but probably after a certain amount of haggling between landlord and tenant as to what the latter could now afford to pay.

'The original reclainer and his descendants have in many cases disappeared from the village and a new *thikadar*, who was brought in as a cultivator by the first, reigns in his place. He still lets out for cultivation such lands as remain fit for reclamation, and generally conducts the agricultural administration of the villages but the principal object of his existence is no longer to turn the jungle into fields for his own profit and that of the zamindar but to act as a medium between the zamindar and the *ryots* of the *tola*, whereby the former may be able to realise his rents with the least possible difficulty. The zamindar deals only with the *thikadar*, on whose shoulders falls all the burden, if he cannot realise from the *ryots* the full amount of their rent. Where the *thikadar* is still merely an ignorant *ryot* of the village promoted to be rent collector, he frequently has no voice in the assessment of rents on the various holdings in the village. His own rent is increased every five or seven years according to his agreement generally verbal, with the proprietor and he gets a *hukumnama* from the proprietor to increase the rents of the *ryots* by a certain proportion so as to make up the increase in his *thika* rent. In many *tolas*, where there is no longer a scope for reclamation, the *thikadar* is an outsider, frequently a servant of the zamindar, who is allowed a small profit on the amount which he realises from the *ryots*. The same septennial increase is taken in these cases also but sometimes a *tola* is met with where the limit of increase has long ago been reached.

'Where the *thika* system exists for actual reclamation purposes it is, or would be, if properly managed, the best possible. The *thikadar* is directly interested in developing the agricultural resources of his village as fast and as far as possible, because he gets for his own profit the rent that he can realise from the lands cultivated within each period of settlement. Even in this case, however, the system is liable to abuse through careless management, for the landlord takes no accurate account, at the end of each period of lease, of the amount of land actually brought under cultivation during the period but increases the rent by mere guesswork. The result is that the rent goes on increasing arbitrarily even long after the maximum of

cultivation is reached. If the cultivators are Santals, they stand this up to a certain point, till they think that their profits are less than they can make in some new areas, when they depart, leaving the results of their labours to Goalas, Babhans, Modis and others. Where the limit of reclamation has been reached as far as is possible with the means and capital at the disposal of the *thikadar* and *ryot*, or where the settlement is one for the farming of the rents merely, the *thika* system is bad in every way. The periodical demands for increased rent lead to bad feeling between the proprietor and tenants. The burden of the increase tends to fall more and more on the low caste *ryots* who cannot resist the *thikadar's* demands, as the higher caste Babhans and Rajputs do. In consequence the incidence of the rents on these tenants becomes so great that the failure of the crops in any year drives them to borrowing first on the security of their cattle and household goods, then on that of their holdings, which pass in a very few years into the hands of the Modis and Babhans, who have superior resisting power and outside sources of income.

"Further, in its extremest form, the *thika* system is a system of bleeding. The temporary farmer cares for nothing but to get as much profit as he can out of the village during the term of his lease. He will not make any outlay on improvements because his period is too short for him to expect any adequate return, and he cannot be at all certain that he will be able to get the lease for a succeeding term. The *ryots* themselves have to pay rents too high to allow them to expend any money even on the upkeep of such irrigation works as exist and the *thikadar* will not assist them. Consequently, not only is there no development of the resources of the village by form of irrigation works, which are absolutely necessary for the security of crops in the area, but such tanks and *ahars* as do exist are allowed to fall into disrepair and to silt up. In fact the *thikadar* prefers that they should silt up because he can then annex their beds to his own *bakasht* land and grow excellent *rabi* crops of wheat and barley on them. The practical result of the purely farming system is thus to decrease the quantity and quality of cultivation in the village rather than to increase it, and to throw a more and more heavy burden on the shoulders of the *ryots*, whose rents increase while their crops diminish, and who have no one to whom they can turn for assistance."

Since the vesting of estates in State Government *thika* system does not exist and all such tenures have vested in State Government under the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act

RENT FREE TENURES *

"The largest revenue free tenure in the district is the Abhaipur *pargana* held by the *khankah* or monastery at Maulanagar, the grant of which was confirmed by a *sanad* of Council, dated 9th February,

* Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926)

1786 The proceeds of the estate are intended for feeding travellers and beggars, keeping up a school and mosque, and also for the personal expenses of the endowed family. Generally, however rent free tenures in South Monghyr are of a petty nature and of several kinds such as *svattar*, *brahmottar*, *devottar*, *bhatottar*, *jagir*, *baksh*, *lakhiraj*. In the Chakai *pargana* a number of these tenures were created by *ghatwals*, often on trifling grounds. For instance a Brahman recited a chapter of the Ramlika on an auspicious Tuesday and he was given 2 *bighas* of rice land as *brahmottar*, another acted as priest in a *Satnaram katha* and was given 3 *bighas*. Such grants are mostly of recent origin, the *sanads* being from 30 to 60 years old. Some of the latter contain terrible imprecations on any of the successors of the donor who may interfere with the grant. *Bhatottar* tenures were similarly created by the *ghatwal*, each of whom had his *bhat* or *jongleur*. These men who seem to have a hereditary genius for composing extempore adulatory verses, served as the chroniclers of the *ghatwals'* genealogy. Many *jagirs* or service tenures also owed their origin to the *ghatwal* who hardly ever paid any body in cash, but had his drummer, his bugler, his pottar, his carpenter, his *patk*, and his *barkandaz*, his barbar and his *dhobi*, as well as his hereditary priest. All these were paid in *jagi*, and most of the *jagirs* have been left untouched by the present proprietors."

Such tenures have not vested in State Government under the provisions of Bihar Land Reforms Act and steps are being taken to assess rent.

*Baksh **

"*Baksh* grants are another curious kind of tenure, which was common in the *ghatwali* estates. It is reported that it was considered necessary for the dignity of a *ghatwal* chief to keep a number of mistresses and their children were generally maintained by means of rent free *baksh* grants, *baksh* being the root of the Persian verb *bakshudan*, 'to grant'. Some of these illegitimate children exercised considerable influence, and several *sanads* by which they made *brahmottar* and *svottar* grants are still in existence. Again *baksh* grants were made to the *patwaris*, *diwans* and other Kayastha employees of the *ghatwal*. For instance a Kayastha of Kiwa was engaged as tutor to a son of a *ghatwal*. After 2½ months it was found that the boy had become wondrously learned, and a *baksh* of 40 *bighas* of land was immediately given to the tutor."

With the vesting of estates in State Government, such *baksh* no longer exists and steps are being taken for assessment of rent under the provisions of Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

RAIYATS' HOLDINGS

The great mass of the tenants are settled and occupancy *raiya*s. In north Monghyr the number of holdings of this class is 2,82,332

* Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926)

or more than 89 per cent of the total number of occupied holdings; and over 81 per cent of the occupied area is held by tenants with occupancy rights. The average size of a holding, i.e., the area held by tenants under a single landlord, is nearly $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres. It is least in Teghra and Begusarai which are the domain of petty landlords and of subdivision of proprietary interest. It is greatest in Gogri, which is, generally speaking, owned at comparatively big proprietors. Barely one in 500 holdings has been recorded as held by *rayats* at fixed rents or rates of rent, and only 1,871 acres are so held. Non-occupancy holdings account for over 3 per cent of the total number of holdings and average nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres in size. Rent free *rayats* hold 2 per cent of the holdings with an average area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, while under *rayats* hold nearly 6 per cent, the average area of their holding being only of one acre. Many of the under *rayats* are as elsewhere, servants of the actual tenants and in lieu of, or in addition to, wages get a small part of the superior tenants' holding on which to build a house, and cultivate a small area attached thereto on their own behalf.

A certain number of under *rayats* consist of indigo planters holding under the *kurtauli* system, by which the factory in consideration of an advance equivalent to several years' rent and interest is allowed to cultivate a portion of the tenant's holding for a limited period.

The indigo planters left this district long ago and hence their rights have ceased in existence. There is no *kurtauli* system in vogue now.

CHAKBAND SYSTEM *

"In the Jamui subdivision a number of *rayats* hold under the *chakband* system, which is analogous to the system of *thika* leases granted for the purposes of reclamation, a *chak* of land being leased out to whoever wished to reclaim it on a lump rental for a term of years. At the time of the revenue survey of 1847, it may be explained, the jungle was much more continuous and extensive than it is now, and large tracts of land forming one estate, but comprising numerous *bastis* scattered throughout the jungle, were surveyed as one village. These revenue survey villages are now divided up into numerous villages known locally as *mauzas*, *tolas*, and *kitas*. The *mauza* is the traditional site of the original jungly village, and the *tolas* and *kitas* are more recently reclaimed portions of the jungles, which were recognised as appertaining to the old *mauzas*. The areas included in these *tolas* and *kitas* were originally granted in *thika* lease for reclamation purposes to various *rayats*. It frequently happened, however, that the original reclaiming *thikadar*, finding that he had more land than he could reclaim himself, and not wishing to take the trouble of actively supervising the process of reclamation as carried on by his partners and under *rayats*, would grant to one or more

* Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926)

rayats portion of the village, defined by certain boundaries as *chakband* holdings. These were generally not larger than could be conveniently reclaimed by one family, and consequently they have preserved their original character intact. Sometimes, however, the *chakbands* were large areas, beyond the power of one family to cultivate which were, therefore, developed by the help of co-sharers and under *rayats*.

"Such comparatively large *chakband* leases are generally known as *Katkana* leases, which simply implies that the lessees are subordinate to the *thikadar*. It is reported that in the villages of *taluk* Mallepur in *pargana* Parbatta, belonging to the Banaili Raj these *chakbands* have come to imply a species of *mukarari* interest vested in the original settler and his descendants. This is said to be accidental, being due apparently to the fact that the Raj has not increased the rents of its tenants for several generations and in no other part of the subdivision do these *chakbands* imply any special rights as regards fixity of rent or security of tenure beyond the ordinary incidents of a *rayati* holding. A *chakband* in Mallepur can change hands in its entirety by sale, provided the purchaser obtains the permission of the Raj but when it comes into the hands of the *malik* through sale for arrears of rent, its *chakband* character is broken and it is measured and settled as new as *kurokar* land, i.e., measured, from *kuroh* meaning a *bigha*. Elsewhere in the subdivision, in *parganas* Gidhaur and Chakai, an ordinary *rayati jot*, as distinguished from a *chakband* is *phutkar jot*, i.e., broken or composed of scattered plots.

"The history of the way in which rents are assessed on such holdings is interesting. Cases have been met with in *ghatwali* villages of Chakai which show that the rent first fixed for many of the *chakbands* was to be paid in perpetuity, but scarcely any of these *mukarari* leases have survived the efforts or the more modern proprietors to increase their rent roll, as the cultivation of their estates increases in extent. The great majority were leased out with an implied condition that the rent would be increased at the expiry of the term fixed in the *patta*, if the cultivation within the *chak* has extended to a degree sufficient to bear the increase. In assessing the new rent at the end of the term of lease, however, no proper estimate of the capabilities of the land reclaimed within the period was or is made. If the amount fixed left the lessee what he considered a fair amount to live on, he acquiesced. If he thought it was too high he protested and generally got the amount reduced. The proprietor could not afford to be too high-handed in his assessment, while there was much jungle land lying ready for reclamation, for the *rayat*, who was generally an independent aboriginal, would think it little hardship to leave a *zamindari* where he was too harshly dealt with, and pitch his hut in the forest territory of some more lenient landlord. This independence of the Santal and other aboriginal tribes is one reason why they gave away after reclamation has reached

a certain pitch, to Hindu cultivators, who will cheerfully pay a much higher rent than the Santal and still keep clear of debt. It is probably that at one time the whole area was held on such progressive lump rentals. Even in the highly cultivated villages near Jamui, *chaks* still exist which have come down in the family of one *raiya*t for generations, but generally they have long ago become *phutkar jots*, and rent is paid, or is claimed, on a classification of the fields."

Chakbands are also a rent tenure and they are no longer in existence after the vesting of estates under the provisions of Bihar Land Reforms Act.

*Alagi Jots.**

"A form of holding arising from the comparative infertility of the tenure lands of the southern area is known as *alagi jama*, i.e., a separate *jama*. This consists of lands outside the proper holding of the *raiya*t, which he has a right, obtained from the proprietor, to cultivate on condition of paying a rent at the rate of four to ten annas per *bigha* only for the year in which he cultivates them. Those lands produce a scanty crop of *kodo* or *kulthi* once every three or four years, and are allowed to lie fallow, bearing no rent for two or three years between each crop."

This system is no longer in vogue due to abolition of zamindaris under the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

*Thika Arazi Kamat.***

"Another form of tenure, which some proprietors have endeavoured to introduce contrary to the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, is locally known as *thika arazi kamat*. This consists of land formerly held by *raiya*t which has come into the proprietor's hands either by the departure of the cultivator or by purchase in a sale for arrears of rent. This land is settled, either with the new *raiya*t or with the *thikadar* of the village, for a term of 7 to 11 years, the lease specifying that it is *kamat* land which the lessee must cultivate himself and never sublet, and that the lessee is to have no rights to the land at the end of the period of lease beyond what may be granted by the proprietor on a renewal of the *patta*. It has been generally found during the course of the present settlement that where such lands have been settled with *raiya*t, they have occupancy rights in them, either having continued to cultivate for over 12 years or being originally settled *raiya*t of the village, that where such lands have been settled with *thikadars*, they have been unable to cultivate them themselves and have sublet them to *raiya*t without the knowledge of the proprietors and that these *raiya*t have also in generally acquired occupancy rights over the land."

This sort of tenure is also no longer in existence after the vesting of all estates and tenures in the State Government under the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

* Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1925).

** *Ibid.*

CHAPTER XI.

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE.

SEPARATION OR COMBINATION OF EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS.

Administration of Civil Justice in the district is fully in the hands of judiciary headed by the District Judge of Monghyr under the control and supervision of the Patna High Court. He is assisted by a number of Additional Judges, Sub-Judges and Munsifs stationed at the district headquarters of Monghyr and the outlying subdivisional headquarters of Jamui and Begusarai. There are, however, two exceptions of Executive Officers assisting the District Judge in the administration of Civil Justice. The Subdivisional Officers of Monghyr and Jamui have since 1934 been exercising powers of Munsifs in respect of civil suits of the maximum valuation of Rs. 1,000 only in which one of the parties is a Santhal or a Bhuiya of aboriginal tribes in the district of Monghyr. The judiciary is under the complete control of the High Court except in the matter of certain transfers and promotions in which also the State Government generally follow the advice of the Court.

The district of Monghyr is one of the six districts of the State in which there is partial separation of judiciary and executive in the administration of Criminal Justice. As per recommendations of Meredith Committee, this scheme of separation was introduced in this district from the 1st January, 1951. The District Magistrate of Monghyr continues to control and supervise as before the detection of crimes and the institution and prosecution of State cases in the district. His control and supervision extends to the private cases also inasmuch as he has to exercise control and supervision over the taking of cognizance in all criminal cases and can also withdraw any criminal case from prosecution. In the scheme of separation, he is responsible for supervision and control over only those cases which are in the file of the Executive Magistrates. The Sessions Judge of Monghyr is generally responsible for the proper and expeditious trial of all criminal cases in the district, and exercises control and supervision over all Magistrates particularly through his powers of transfer and withdrawal of cases, appeals, reference and revision against the orders of Subordinate Magistrates and also of inspection of the files of all Subordinate Magistrates. The District Magistrate is assisted in the discharge of his above functions by a Subdivisional Magistrate and a number of Executive Magistrates stationed at each of the four subdivisional headquarters of the district. At the district headquarters, there is a Deputy Magistrate in charge of Legal Section for the assistance of the District Magistrate. In the matter of detection of crimes and institution of cases, he is assisted by his Subdivisional Magistrates and the Subordinate Executive Magistrates as well as by the various Government departments and local bodies

engaged in the detection of crimes and institution of cases for bringing the offenders to book. On the other hand, the Sessions Judge is assisted in the matter of trial and expeditious disposal of cases by all the Magistrates in the district and three Additional Sessions Judges and an Assistant Sessions Judge.

It was at the instance of the Patna High Court that the matter of separation of executive and judicial functions was taken up by the Government in 1944. The Court submitted to Government a scheme for the establishment of better control and supervision over the magisterial courts and for the eventual achievement of complete separation. It included *inter alia* proposals for—

- (1) gradual elimination of judicial functions of the executive officers and the increase of administrative control of the High Court over the magisterial courts,
- (2) occasional inspection of the magisterial courts by the Sessions Judges and the High Court Judges, and
- (3) submission of notes of inspections of the magisterial courts by the Commissioners and the District Magistrates to the High Court.

The Government accepted the proposals and appointed a Committee presided by the Hon ble Justice H R Meredith, a Puisne Judge of the High Court, to frame a practicable scheme for the separation of judicial and executive functions. The Committee submitted their report to the Government in January, 1947. In November, 1947, Government appointed a Special Officer, namely, Shri Md Yahya of the State Judicial Service, to work out the details of the scheme. The scheme of separation was introduced on an experimental basis from January 1950 in the districts of Patna and Shahabad, and from January, 1951 in three other districts including Monghyr. Except for certain administrative and other difficulties inherent in a scheme of partial separation, the scheme, on the whole, has been working successfully. It has created more confidence in the minds of the litigant public of this district.

In the existing scheme of separation, Subdivisional Magistrates receive all complaints and prosecution reports and take cognizance. For the purposes of trial, all criminal cases except of a few specified categories are transferred to Judicial and Munsif Magistrates and the specified categories of cases to Executive Magistrates. The District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Magistrates have nothing to do after the transfer stage with the cases in the file of judicial and Munsif Magistrates. The Sessions Judge is responsible for the trial and expeditious disposal of such cases. The specified category of such cases which are transferred to Executive Magistrates for disposal are—

- (a) cases and proceedings under Chapters VIII, X, XI, XII and XXXVI of the Criminal Procedure Code,

- (b) cases arising during the drive for checking hooliganism and ticketless travelling on railways where spot trial is necessary by the Magistrates accompanying the Railway Police Party;
- (c) cases under sections 108, 112, 113, 118, 121 and 122 of the Indian Railways Act dealing with offences relating to unauthorised pulling of communication chains, ticketless travelling, footboard or roof travelling, obstruction to railway servants, trespass into railway premises, etc.;
- (d) cases under Motor Vehicles Act;
- (e) cases under section 34 of the Police Act, 1861,
- (f) cases under District Board and Municipal Bye-laws;
- (g) cases under sections 28, 29, 29 (A), 29 (B) and 30 of the Bengal Vaccination Act, 1880;
- (h) cases under sections 3 and 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890; and
- (i) cases under section 93 of the Bengal Irrigation Act, 1876.

The District Magistrate has ceased to exercise powers under sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Reformatory Schools Act, 1897, which are now exercised by the District and Sessions Judge. Commitment enquiries into cases triable by Courts of Sessions are to be held only by Judicial and Munsif-Magistrates and by Executive Magistrates.

The Munsif-Magistrates have all along been under the control of the High Court through the Sessions Judge. In order to pass on complete control of Judicial Magistrates also to the High Court through the Sessions Judge, the Government have issued executive instructions, besides vesting the Sessions Judge with certain powers of withdrawal and transfer of cases. The District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Magistrates have no control over the Judicial Magistrates now, and they have nothing to do with a criminal case of their file and of the file of the Munsif-Magistrates after it has once been transferred for trial. As in the case of Munsif-Magistrates, it is only the Sessions Judge now who records annual confidential remarks on the working and conduct of the Magistrates employed on judicial side and also recommends for vesting them with higher powers. Honorary Magistrates are also now under the control of the High Court through the Sessions Judge in the same way as the Stipendiary Judicial Magistrates except that the Sessions Judge has to consult the District Magistrate in the matter of the extension of their terms. Appeals from the decision of the Magistrates of the third and second classes are now heard by Assistant Sessions Judges

and from those of the Magistrates of the 1st class by the Sessions Judge and the Additional Sessions Judges. The District Magistrate does not exercise the powers of appeals, reference of revision against the orders of Judicial Magistrates and Munsif Magistrates. Neither the District Magistrate nor the Subdivisional Magistrates exercise the powers under section 528 (2), Criminal Procedure Code with regard to cases in the file of Judicial Magistrates. They are no longer required to perform any executive function nor to make any enquiries under section 202, Criminal Procedure Code. In cases of emergency, they can, however, be called upon to perform executive functions by the District Magistrate if only the Sessions Judge can spare them.

The District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Magistrates, however, continue to exercise the powers vested in them under section 549, Criminal Procedure Code in respect of all cases in the files of the Second and Third Class Magistrates within their respective jurisdictions.

ORGANISATION OF CIVIL COURTS

For the administration of Civil Justice and trial of sessions cases, the district of Monghyr was formerly under the jurisdiction of the judgeship of Bhagalpur with headquarters at Bhagalpur. With the increase in the volume of work, a separate judgeship under a District and Sessions Judge with Monghyr as its headquarters was carved out in the year 1914 by Government notification no 1146 J, dated the 23rd December 1913, with its jurisdiction over the whole of the district. The judgeship of Monghyr thus came into existence with effect from the 1st January, 1914. When the judgeship came into existence, there were two Munsifs Courts and one Sub Judge's Court at Monghyr. The posts of another Sub Judge at Monghyr and Sub Judge at Begusarai were created in 1918 and 1945 respectively on account of pressure of work. Besides the courts functioning at the headquarters, there were two Munsifs Courts at Begusarai and one at Jamui when the judgeship came into existence in 1914. Even today, the above three Sub Judges Courts and the five Munsifs Courts are the only permanent courts in the district to assist the District Judge in the dispensation of Civil Justice. There are, however, a number of temporary courts in the district created from time to time to meet increasing volume of work. At present, there are three Additional Judges one Additional Sub Judge and one Additional Munsif at the district headquarters and one Additional Sub Judge at Begusarai functioning on temporary basis in the district. The Subdivisional Officers Jamui and Sadar also try civil suits of maximum valuation of Rs 1,000 only if one of the parties to the suit is a Santhal or Bhuiya and for this purpose, they are under the control and supervision of the District Judge. It is, therefore, a peculiar feature in the administration of Civil Justice in the district that two Executive Officers are part time employed for the purpose.

The following table will show the dates from which the various subordinate permanent courts are functioning in the district —

Court,	Headquarters	Date from which functioning
1 Sub Judge, 1st Court	Monghyr	5th October 1886
2 Sub Judge, 2nd Court	Ditto	21st November 1918
3 Munsif, 1st Court	Ditto	3rd March 1899
4 Munsif, 2nd Court	Ditto	29th March 1885
5 Sub Judge	Begusarai	1st March 1945
6 Munsif, 1st Court	Ditto	18th September 1880
7 Munsif, 2nd Court	Ditto	18th September 1884
8 Munsif	Jamui	18th September 1880

It will thus appear that all the permanent courts of this district except Sub Judge, Second Court, Monghyr are senior in age to the court of their District Judge, the seniormost being the court of Munsif, First Court at Monghyr

The Registrar system was introduced in this judgeship in 1939 on a temporary basis, and a few years later on a permanent basis, to assist the District Judge in administrative matters. A Munsif of sufficient experience is always appointed to this post and the system has been working successfully in this judgeship. No suit or cases are, however, tried by the Registrar. The Registrar is more to look after the day-to-day administration and work as a link between the litigants and the courts. He is to help the District Judge in his administration of the departments.

The Munsifs try original suits of varying valuations up to a maximum limit of Rs 4,000 only, whereas the Sub Judges try original suits of higher valuations without any limit. Each of the courts has got an assigned area of jurisdiction whereas the jurisdiction of the District Judge and the Additional Judges extends over the whole district. Appeals against the decision of Munsifs are filed before the District Judge who receives and admits them and transfers them to the Sub Judges for disposal. In miscellaneous appeals, however, arising out of the decisions of the Munsifs, the District Judge is empowered to admit or dismiss the appeals summarily. The second appeal against the decision of the Munsifs lies before the High Court. The appeals against the decision of the Sub Judges lie before the District Judge when the valuation is up to Rs 5,000 and before the High Court when it exceeds Rs 5,000. As in the case of appeals against the decision of the Munsifs, the District Judge is

empowered to dismiss summarily only miscellaneous appeals up to the valuation of Rs 5,000 against the decision of Sub Judges. Appeals admitted by the District Judge against the decision of Sub Judges are either heard by him or by Additional Judges to whom he may choose to transfer the same for disposal.

As the principal civil court of the district, the District Judge is empowered to withdraw *suo moto* or on the motion of any party, any civil suit or execution case from the file of any subordinate court and transfer the same to any other competent court for disposal. Occasions come frequently for the exercise of this power of supervision and control vested in him in the interest of just and quick dispensation of Civil Justice. The District Judge receives applications under the Probate Act and Indian Succession Act and disposes them himself or transfers them to the file of the Additional Judges for disposal. Under the Guardian and Wards Act the District Judge acts as the guardian of all the minors in the district. As such, he appoints guardians of minors for whom applications are made before him. He has also the inherent power to act *suo moto* for appointment of guardians of minors. The aforesaid powers under the Guardian and Wards Act are vested only in the District Judge on account of great care and caution needed for the purpose, and even the Additional District Judge cannot exercise any of those powers. Appeals against the decision of District Judge and Additional District Judges lie before the High Court. The aforesaid power of supervision and control by the District Judge is not vested in the Additional Judges.

GRAM PANCHAYAT

There is no *Panchayat* courts in this district established under section 6 or section 7 of the Village Administration Act, 1922. A large number of *Gram Cutcheries* is however, functioning in this district under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947. The special feature about the *Gram Cutcheries* is that they are enjoined to bring about amicable settlement in every suit between the parties first failing which they are to proceed to give their decision on merit. An appeal has been provided against the order of a Bench of a *Gram Cutchery* to the Full Bench of a *Gram Cutchery*. The Munsif having jurisdiction over the area of the *Gram Cutchery* in respect of a civil suit has been authorised to cancel the jurisdiction of a Bench or set aside the order of such Bench with regard to any civil case. But he has no power to order retrial by a Bench of a *Gram Cutchery*. The stress on amicable settlement first has been laid in the legislation with a view to reviving harmonious and peaceful village corporate life in the rural area which at one stage of our history had reached a very high peak in this State. The tabular statement no I attached herewith gives useful information as to the working of this new system in the administration of Civil Justice. It will appear from it that the number of such courts is increasing fast year by year, and

there have been almost negligible occasions for the matter coming up before the Munsif against the *Gram Cutcheries*. It will further appear that more than 50 per cent of the suits disposed of by the *Gram Cutcheries* were cases of disposal by amicable settlement. It is, however, yet too early to assess the effects of this system on the number of civil suits in the courts of Munsifs.

Statement II annexed herewith gives the number of institution and disposal of civil suits and appeals yearwise for 18 years. The figures for 1913 have been given because the judgeship came into existence from 1st January, 1914 as already mentioned. There was a small drop in the institution of suits in the year 1923, and, therefore, the figures for that year have also been given. The next period selected for the figures is the period from 1941 to 1956. It will be noted that there was a sudden fall in the institution of civil suits in 1942, the year of the "Quit India Movement". There was a sudden rise in 1943 and again a drop in 1944 and a further drop in 1945. There was a marked rise in 1954 and thereafter a marked fall in 1955 and a further fall in 1956. The present fall in the institution of civil suits is mainly due to complete abolition of zamindari in the district and a further fall due to this factor is not unlikely.

STATEMENT I

Year of report	Number of Gram Cutcheries	Total number of suits instituted	Number of suits disposed of by amicable settlement	Number of suits disposed of otherwise	Total number of suits disposed of (cols 4+5)	Number of suits entertained by Munsifs under section 73 of the Act			Total number suits disposed by Munsifs under section of the Act
						Dismissed	Allowed or modified		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1954	176	531	180	263	443	Nil	Nil		
1955	589	607	239	178	417	Nil	Nil		
1956	604	1,183	678	543	1,201	2	Nil		
Total	1,369	2,321	1,077	994	2,061	2			

STATEMENT II.

Institution and Disposal of Civil Suits and Appeals.

Year	Civil suits		Miscellaneous cases		Execution cases		Appeals		Miscellaneous appeals	
	Institution	Disposal of	Institution	Disposal of	Institution	Disposal of	Institution	Disposal of	Institution	Disposal of
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1613	13,068	5,480	1,050	1,415	6,689	4,527	662	312	122	91
1623	11,858	Not available	1,649	Not available	7,059	Not available	068	Not available	219	Not available
1641	20,080	26,475	3,914	3,671	13,331	10,030	472	468	107	105
1642	3,829	6,131	3,433	3,690	11,675	12,918	369	326	146	168
1643	22,177	19,922	3,698	3,091	6,602	12,046	428	367	231	206
1644	12,212	12,428	3,165	3,169	6,535	2,896	523	508	215	209
1645	9,967	9,805	2,841	2,018	4,312	7,732	514	467	220	217
1646	8,515	9,799	2,003	2,443	5,960	4,746	732	082	183	104
1647	8,722	8,538	1,901	2,123	4,770	4,817	620	683	109	172
1648	9,479	6,167	1,013	1,544	5,389	4,893	457	572	110	151
1649	9,145	9,303	1,065	1,006	4,469	5,589	340	412	126	116
1650	8,046	9,085	1,600	1,634	4,650	4,722	472	368	131	139
1651	8,381	8,371	1,432	1,540	4,605	4,005	295	342	110	91
1652	6,491	9,830	1,301	1,293	4,434	4,285	452	256	73	07
1653	9,960	9,956	1,547	1,507	4,047	4,305	403	462	92	78
1654	11,931	11,504	1,770	1,617	4,219	3,882	342	462	97	98
1655	8,844	8,887	5,633*	1,709	3,912	3,893	202	386	132	131
1656	5,383	6,036	1,659	1,636	3,688	4,036	261	267	137	129

N B—*3,013 related to L. R. claim case and those were transferred to Claim Officer.

ORGANISATION OF CRIMINAL COURTS

For the performance of executive functions and trial of cases by Executive Magistrates under the control and supervision of the District Magistrate, this district is divided into four subdivisions namely, Monghyr Sadar, Jamui, Begusarai and Khagaria with their respective headquarters at Monghyr, Jamui, Begusarai and Khagaria. The Sadar subdivision also is now a separate entity like other subdivisions as the reorganisation scheme recommended by Shri B. D. Pande, I.C.S., has been given effect to in this district from the 11th November, 1957 on an experimental basis. Khagaria subdivision was carved out of the Sadar subdivision and came into existence in 1944.

The present sanctioned strength of Deputy and Sub Deputy Collectors for the district headquarters is nine and two respectively including the officers meant for the Sadar subdivision. The sanctioned strength for Jamui subdivision and Begusarai subdivision each is one Deputy Collector or a Junior I A S Officer and one Sub Deputy Collector. As Khagaria subdivision was carved out of Sadar subdivision its sanctioned strength of one Deputy Collector and one Sub Deputy Collector was allotted to it out of the aforesaid sanctioned strength of the district headquarters. A Deputy Collector out of the sanctioned strength with first class magisterial powers functions at present as the Subdivisional Magistrate in charge of each of the four subdivisions. Besides the Sub Deputy Collectors of the sanctioned strength functioning as Magistrates at the subdivisional headquarters the Subdivisional Magistrates are assisted in the discharge of executive functions and trial of cases triable by Executive Magistrates by a number of temporary posts manned by temporary or permanent Deputy Collectors and Sub Deputy Collectors exercising magisterial powers. After the separation of the Sadar subdivisional office from the district office the only officer doing magisterial work in the Collectorate side is the District Magistrate, who continues to exercise the powers of control and supervision under section 435, Criminal Procedure Code over the Executive Magistrates in the district. The District Magistrate as well as the Subdivisional Magistrates continue to exercise their powers under section 520 (2), Criminal Procedure Code in regard to cases triable by Executive Magistrates. They also continue to exercise powers under section 349, Criminal Procedure Code in respect of cases tried by all the Magistrates of the second or the third class. They also take cognizance of offences and pass orders for dismissal or trial.

The Sessions Judge is assisted by a number of Judicial Magistrates, Munsif Magistrates and Honorary Magistrates at each subdivisional headquarters for the trial of cases. The Subdivisional Magistrates as well as other Executive Magistrates with first class powers are also under the supervision of the Sessions Judge in his

capacity as the appellate court, and he has to record his annual remarks on the judicial work of these Magistrates

In the trial of Sessions cases, the Sessions Judge is assisted by an Assistant Sessions Judge and three Additional Sessions Judges stationed at the district headquarters. The appeals against the Magistrates with second and third class powers are heard by the Assistant Sessions Judge and those against the decisions of Magistrates with first class powers either by the Sessions Judge himself or by the Additional Sessions Judge to whom he may transfer the appeal. The appeals are, however, in all cases filed before the Sessions Judge. The Sessions Judge also exercises the powers under section 435, Criminal Procedure Code and section 528(2), Criminal Procedure Code over all Magistrates in the district engaged on trial of cases and also over the Subdivisional Magistrates. One of the Additional Judges has been appointed Special Judge under section 6 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1952 for the trial of bribery and corruption cases. The District Magistrate takes cognizance in such cases and transfers the same to the Special Judge's file for disposal. He does not exercise the powers of withdrawal of such cases from the file of one Special Judge and transfer of the same to the file of another Special Judge. These powers are exercised by the Sessions Judge.

The system of trial of Sessions cases with aid of assessors has been abolished with effect from the 1st January, 1956 on account of the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Act 26 of 1955 coming into effect in this State from that date. The system of trial by jury introduced in 1922 in this district continues but in respect of very few offences now, namely, sections 379 to 382, 403, 404, 411, 426 to 432, 434, 435, 440, 448, 450 to 458, 461 and 462, Indian Penal Code. During the last few years the system of trial by jury came in for much public criticism and in December, 1949 the State Government asked for the views of the High Court on the question of the abolition of jury trial in respect of certain offences and the selection of right type of men as jurors. As a result of Government agreeing with the views forwarded by the High Court, the system of trial by jury in respect of offences under sections 363 to 369, 372, 373, 376, 392 to 394 and 401 of the Indian Penal Code was abolished in this district with effect from the 20th February, 1950. The State Government further abolished the system of trial by jury in respect of offences under sections 436, 459, 460 and 493 to 498 of the Indian Penal Code in this district with effect from 1st August, 1952, after receiving the recommendation of the committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr Justice S. K. Das of the Patna High Court to suggest ways and means of improving the system of jury trial. There was a further cut in the year 1957 in the number of offences triable by jury in this district.

There is no *Panchayat Court* in this district constituted under the Bihar and Orissa Village Administration Act, 1922. There is however, a large number of *Gram Cutcheries* functioning in this district under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 which was passed with the effect of developing the system of self-government in rural areas of the State. A special feature about the *Gram Cutcheries* is that except in non-compoundable cases they are enjoined to bring about an amicable settlement between the parties first failing such settlement they are to proceed to give their decision on merits. The stress on amicable settlement has been laid with a view to reviving the peaceful and harmonious village corporate life in the rural areas of the State. It is yet too early to assess properly the effect of this system. Statement III annexed herewith gives the relevant figures which would show how fast the system is expanding in the rural areas and to what extent it has succeeded in bringing about amicable settlement between the contesting parties. During the three years period 1954 to 1956 the *Gram Cutcheries* in the district disposed of by amicable settlement 7 294 criminal cases out of the total disposal of 9 335 only. It was in very few cases that the powers of the Subdivisional Magistrates under section 73 of the Act was invoked.

The District Magistrate assisted by the local departmental heads is responsible for proper prosecution of the State cases before the Magistrates as well as before the Sessions courts. State cases before Magistrates are conducted by a Senior District Prosecutor (who is an officer of the Police Department of D S P's rank) assisted by a number of Assistant District Prosecutors both at the district head quarters and the subdivisional headquarters. Those Assistant District Prosecutors also belong to the Police Department. For conducting prosecution in sessions cases and for appeals and revisions before the courts of sessions there is a Public Prosecutor assisted by a panel of Assistant Public Prosecutors at the district headquarters. They are selected from among the lawyers of the district. The Public Prosecutor gets a retainers fee in addition to the fees for actual work done which he as well as the Assistant Public Prosecutors are entitled to in accordance with the scale of fee laid down in the Practice and Procedure Manual.

Statement IV annexed herewith gives the number of important categories of cognizable offences for the period 1939 to 1945 and 1947 to 1956. The sharp rise in the number of murder dacoity robbery burglary and riot cases in the year 1942 the year of our great Quit India Movement is notable. The trend was upward in 1943 also. Though the figures are fluctuating thereafter the rise in crimes is almost a permanent feature and whatever control was achieved in some years proved only to be fluid by immediate subsequent rise. Statement V gives the figures for 1913 and 1938 to 1956 of sessions cases and appeals and revisions heard by the courts of sessions. Figures for 1913 have been given as this Sessions Division

of Monghyr came into existence on the 1st January, 1914 as stated earlier. Statement VI gives figures of criminal appeals and revisions heard by the District Magistrate.

There is a Railway Magistrate stationed at Kiul and another at Barauni in this district for the spot trial of railway cases triable by Executive Magistrates. The incidence of ticketless travelling and particularly among the students and other offences under the Railway Act such as unauthorised pulling of alarm chains, causing obstruction to a railway servant in the discharge of his duty has gone up enormously. It is a pity that the two Railway Magistrates should be unable to cope with the problem. Armed sections are deployed to help the Railway Magistrates do their work.

Formerly, there used to function benches of Honorary Magistrates at Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai and Jamalpur in Sadar subdivision of this district for spot trial of cases, but now the Honorary Magistrates sit at the subdivisional headquarters of each subdivision. Except at Jamalpur in Sadar subdivision, there is again a public demand for a bench of Honorary Magistrate at Sheikhpura on account of high incidence of crimes in the area.

STATEMENT III

Year of report	No. of Gram Cutcheries	Total number of cases instituted	Number of cases disposed of by amicable settlement	Number of cases disposed of otherwise	Total number of cases disposed of (cols 4 + 5)	Number of cases entertained Subdivisional Magistrate under section 73 of the Act		
						Dismissed	Allowed or modified	Total number of cases disposed of under section 73 of the Act
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1934	176	1,594	1,027	209	1,326	Nil	Nil	Nil
1935	604	2,841	1,763	613	2,376	1	8	9
1936	604	5,702	4,501	1,129	5,633	17	18	35
Total	1,384	10,137	7,291	2,041	9,335	21	26	47

STATEMENT IV.

Number of important offences and cases instituted.

Year	Murder.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Burglary	Theft	Riot	Swindling
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	22	8	17	1,878	858	65	39
.	26	18	21	1,710	772	141	13
.	22	23	14	2 049	780	78	13
	35	70	20	2,208	742	108	20
	48	293	45	2,270	917	151	15
	30	162	22	1,416	701	110	7
	31	123	26	1 547	055	108	10
	N A	N A	N A	N A	N A	N A	N A
	32	170	48	2,082	873	N A	25
	38	160	51	1,687	1 012	111	14
	38	83	32	1 106	959	302	23
	38	76	40	1 459	1 181	378	10
	46	111	57	1 761	1 011	261	21
	62	125	50	1 511	1 018	295	15
	62	111	43	1 385	255	280	23
	29	110	37	1,483	110	238	37
	48	101	41	1 509	105	208	21
	30	75	38	1 385	193	185	18

STATEMENT V.

Sessions cases and criminal appeals and revision by the Courts of Sessions.

Year.	Sessions cases.		Criminal appeals.		Criminal revision.		
	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
13	..	40	32	121	112	N.A.	N.A.
38	..	70	62	220	224	122	129
39	..	61	70	301	301	128	126
40	..	64	41	347	340	121	123
41	..	64	54	282	279	102	92
42	..	42	66	292	210	82	92
43	..	176	63	284	259	122	119
44	..	189	108	319	334	133	117
45	..	94	109	287	280	233	226
46	..	191	98	243	255	153	164
47	..	82	75	170	170	143	153
48	..	155	145	295	289	112	112
49	..	176	161	418	390	103	97
50	..	100	135	395	318	113	110
51	..	149	121	493	378	201	187
52	..	142	129	421	336	173	169
53	..	152	130	492	446	167	162
54	..	104	161	455	660	243	231
55	..	118	99	446	271	281	104
56	..	91	104	474	322	325	309

STATEMENT VI

Showing the number of appeals and revisions filed before the Deputy Magistrate with appellate powers and District Magistrate, Monghyr

Year	Appeal filed before Deputy Magistrate with appellate powers		Appeal filed before District Magistrate		Total institution of appeal	Total disposal of appeal	Revision filed before District Magistrate	
	Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal			Institution	Disposal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1937	112	111	25	19	137	130	94	
1938	239	254	28	28	267	287	115	
1939	246	238	14	13	260	251	97	
1940	252	240	29	28	280	277	147	
1941	95	128	180	104	275	232	171	
1942	126	159	39	27	165	186	73	
1943	159	200	36	9	231	209	150	
1944	257	282	10	16	267	208	205	
1945	202	172	35	37	237	209	153	
1946	93	116	35	35	128	151	114	
1947	92	121			92	121	96	
1948	189	143	15	15	204	158	303	
1949	170	192	30	26	207	218	375	
1950	184	192	46	50	230	242	291	
1951							92	
1952							102	
1953							176	
1954							126	
1955							106	
1956	.	.					78	

ORGANISATION OF LOCAL BODIES.

Besides the *Gram Cutcheries* functioning under the provisions of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, for civil suits as well as criminal cases as stated earlier, Local Bodies help in the administration of justice also by detecting and instituting cases relating to the violation of their bye-laws and cases under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Each Local Body has got its own staff for the detection of its bye-law cases, which are instituted after prosecution is sanctioned by its Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Not only the Municipalities and Notified Area Committee, but also District Boards and Local Boards get food materials checked in their areas by their own Sanitary Inspectors for the detection of cases of food adulteration and institute cases. These Sanitary Inspectors are authorised to take samples of food for check.

The District Board of Monghyr manages 83 cattle pounds in the district and thereby helps in the administration of law relating to the Cattle Trespass Act. The District Board also manages two veterinary hospitals and 10 dispensaries in this district, which help the Veterinary Inspectors in the administration of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. These Veterinary Inspectors are Government servants, but their services have been placed at the disposal of a voluntary social organisation, namely, Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with its headquarters at Patna. The Public Health Departments of the District Board, Municipal Boards and Notified Area Committees help also in the administration of the Bengal Vaccination Act by detecting offences relating to vaccinations and by initiating prosecutions.

There are at present 605 *Gram Cutcheries* in this district trying civil suits as well as criminal cases under the provisions of the Bihar Gram Panchayat Raj Act, 1947. They cover 3,177 villages and 22,33,457 of the total district population of 28,30,853 only. This institution for the speedy trial of cases is expanding very fast in this district as will appear from the previous Statements marked I and III. Allegations, however, are made in a few cases of the failure of the duty of these courts of justice to make an effort for amicable settlement, partiality in the course of trial, the influence of the party spirit in the conduct of trials and also in the decision arrived at, and non-compliance with the mandatory provisions of the Act or violation of the principles of natural justice. In this district, much mischief is sometimes caused on account of ignorance of law on the part of the *Panches* constituting the trial court and undue influence of the *Gram Sewak* who is generally a trained hand acquainted with the technicality of law as well as of the system.

There is a coverage on the *Gram Panchayats* as an institution separately.

DISPOSAL OF CASES

Civil suits and appeals—Statements I and II also show disposal. On account of progressive decline in the number of institution of suits, disposal of civil suits and appeals at district and lower level is no longer any cause of anxiety.

Criminal cases—Disposal of criminal cases continued to be a growing headache with the progressive rise in crimes. The long duration in the trial of cases in the courts of Magistrates and also in commitment enquiries is due to delay in submission of chargesheet and more often to the difficulty in securing the attendance of witnesses, specially police witnesses, and their piecemeal examination. Numerous executive functions of the trying Magistrates continued to be the greatest hinderance in the disposal of cases. Inadequate prosecuting staff in the court of Magistrates is partially responsible for delay in disposal of cases. Occasionally keen contest by the lawyers delays disposal. A large number of wholetime Magistrates for the trial of cases or change of law of procedure and the law of evidence may be remedies for expediting trial of criminal cases. There have been some such recent changes.

THE POLICE AND CRIME

The district of Monghyr is commonly known as the criminal district. The incidence of crime has been generally high. Land is high priced here and the large river front makes the *diara* problem rather acute and riots for *diara* lands are quite common. At one time, in the early days of British rule river dacoity was quite common. Some of the portions of the district were quite remote from the district headquarters owing to the bifurcation of the district by the river Ganga. The inaccessibility of some parts was another factor for crime. Portions of the district are covered by hills and forests and it is only very recently that proper roads have been constructed and power vehicles are a common sight.

The district had figured rather prominently in the days of the communal disturbances of 1946. Passions ran high and the people lost control over themselves at Lakhimpur in Tarapur police station and of the other villages.

The police organisation is headed by the Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Monghyr. He is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate and the Deputy Inspector General of Police at Bhagalpur. He has a number of gazetted officers under him, viz., an Additional Superintendent of Police at Begusarai, who has jurisdiction at Khagaria subdivision as well, and an Assistant Superintendent of Police at Jamalpur, a Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of Sadar subdivision, another Deputy Superintendent of Police at Begusarai under the Additional Superintendent of Police, another Deputy Superintendent of Police

in charge of the Jammu subdivision, Lakhisarai Circle under Jamalpur police station. There are a number of Inspectors Sub Inspectors, Assistant Sub Inspectors, *Havildars*, Sergeants and constables. There is also a sizeable temporary force for *Anchals*, Gun Factory, a number of outposts, etc. The total number of constables include 701 for permanent police force, 348 for armed branch and 375 as temporary force. The rural police consists of 284 *Dafadars* and 2,347 *Chaukidars*.

The distribution of the police *thanas* is as follows —

Sadar subdivision — (1) Town police station, (2) Jamalpur police station, (3) Muffasil police station, (4) Kharagpur police station, (5) Tarapur police station, (6) Surajgarha police station, (7) Lakhisarai police station, (8) Sheikhpora police station, (9) Barbigha police station, (10) Burhee police station, (11) Sangrampur police station, (12) Ariari police station.

Jammu subdivision — (1) Jammu, (2) Sikandra, (3) Chakai, (4) Jhajha, (5) Lachimpur, (6) Sono, (7) Khaira, (8) Halsi.

Begusarai subdivision — (1) Begusarai, (2) Ballia, (3) Bachhwara, (4) Teghra, (5) Bakhti, (6) Bariarpur.

Khagaria subdivision — (1) Khagaria, (2) Gogri, (3) Chautham, (4) Bakhtiarpur, (5) Parbatta, (6) Alauli, (7) Beldaur.

CRIMINALS

The remarks in the old Gazetteer of a Commissioner that "South Monghyr is, I think, the post criminal area which I have seen in India, and one whole pargana is and long has been reputed to have a population of thieves" apply equally these days. The registration of Dhairs and Dusadhs under the Criminal Tribes Act greatly eased the crime position. The Criminal Tribes Act has since been repealed with the result that Dhairs and Dusadhs have revived their activities. After the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act these ex-Criminal Tribes Act members are without any police surveillance. They have been found to have been participating in dacoities. Several persons were brought under surveillance on account of their redoubled activities and with the growing population it has been difficult for the police to exercise proper surveillance over these criminal classes. Dhairs and Dusadhs have been described separately.

Banpars have not had any prominent place for criminality in the district. A number of them live in Monghyr and Gogri *thanas*. Sometimes they commit river dacoities in flood seasons in co-operation with Tears and Binds.

CRIMINAL CASTES.

*Dharis.**

"The Dharis are well known thieves and dacoits, but, shrewdly enough, they rarely commit crime in the vicinity of their own villages their connection with the rivers is of a peculiar nature. They do not ordinarily follow any calling on the rivers, but when the country is flooded they take advantage of it to organise regular raids in little dug-outs, which are kept carefully sunk and hidden away. It is said that when on expedition outside the district they work in gangs of seven men. They usually live in a separate quarter of the village, and their houses have nearly always a pig-sty attached to them, to which they give the name *benkor*. In the courtyard of their houses there is a small *pindi* dedicated to Ram Thakur on which they sacrifice the animals they breed at the same time offering incense and prayer to the God. They have a priest (*bhagat*) who officiates for them at various domestic ceremonies and also on special occasions, when the Dharis set out on thieving expeditions.

"In appearance the Dhari is not unlike the Musahar, but he has a stronger physique. Generally speaking they are hardy set of men of good constitution capable of travelling long distance at a high rate of speed. Out of about 200 prisoners medically examined some years ago in the Monghyr Jail, the Dharis were found to be the strongest and best nourished. The ostensible means of livelihood of this essentially criminal caste are breeding animals and manual labour, but there is no doubt that in nearly every case the Dhari is a habitual thief or burglar. It is said, indeed that they look on thieving as their traditional occupation, so much so that a theft committed by one Dhari in another Dhari's preserve, without his consent, is mentioned as a bar on intermarriage. Thirty years ago enquiry showed that out of 1,003 Dharis in this district no less than 209 had been more than once in jail, while the jail register showed the names of 60 more who could not be identified owing to false names and addresses having been given. The caste now numbers in this district about 2,200 most of whom are found in the Sheikhpura and Surajgarha thanas."

It is curious to note that remarks about them recorded about 30 years back, still hold good to a great extent. After the introduction of the Criminal Tribes Act many of them were brought under its operation though the results were not very satisfactory; the Dharis continued going strong on the path of crime in spite of the Criminal Tribes Act.

The Dharis are a caste of lower Hindus resembling Dusadhs in certain respects and the Musahars in others. They are of heavy build, physically stout, carry heavy loads and are merciless. Strangely

* Quoted from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926).

enough many of them are handsome in appearance and even in complexion. This is often attributed to the fact that they are of loose morals. They can walk or run from 20 to 30 miles in the night and so they often commit crime at a great distance, from their places of resort and return back before day-break. Formerly they were only thieves and burglars. Their usual *modus operandi* in burglary was scaling over wall and opening a portion of the house, for example, latrine, backyard, etc. They also cut *sendh* and *bagli* sometimes. The Dhari criminal, when resisted becomes violent rather than cowed down and escape. Of late the Dharis have taken to organised crime like robbery and dacoity. So far their dacoities are unarmed, they do not use fire-arms. Their dacoities are often accompanied with rape and unnecessary cruelty to the victims. They are in the habit of looting cooked foodstuffs at the place of occurrence either because they love a feed or because they have to travel a long distance and carry heavy weight.

The Dharis, on account of prolonged prosecution have learnt the letters of the law and are now usually well defended in court. It is quite usual that the Dhari criminal has behind him his patrons, usually some rich and influential persons in the neighbourhood who share his booty of crime and protect him from the police and the law courts as long as they can. There are instances in which such persons have openly defended the Dharis in bad livelihood cases specially in Sheikhpura and Barbigha police-station areas. The Dhari knows by experience the defects of Evidence Act and will never disclose information leading to recovery of stolen properties or arrest of his real associates. It is also a fact that the Dhari himself would not commit crime in his own neighbourhood because he knows full well, he will be the first victim of police suspicion. Usually the Dhari is employed as a *Gorait* and also for purposes of cultivation but he is by habit and training a criminal.

The Dharis are found in an area comprising the following police-stations of Monghyr district :—

Surajgarha, Lakhisarai, Burhee, Sheikhpura, Sikandra and Barbigha.

Patna district.—Bihar, Sarmera and Asthawan police-stations scattered in different villages. Usually the Dhari's home is on the outskirts of the village and his movements do not easily come to the notice of the rest of the village.

The following villages comprising the more notorious Dharis deserve particular watch :—

Surajichak, Nawabganj in Surajgarha police-station, Nadiawa and Bikam in Lakhisarai police-station, Lachmipur in

Burhee police station, Bhadousi in Sheikhpura police station, Kumetha, Kaini and Sahora in Sikandra police station Teus in Barbigaha police-station and Manpur in Asthawan police station *

The Dharis of the different police stations are inter related with each other socially and associated criminally Simultaneously they organise dacoity also

Dusadhs

To the south in the Chakai *thana* there is a body of Dusadhs known as notorious criminals The following note regarding this class has been contributed by the Rev J M Macphail —

“The Dosadhs of Chakai have for long been notorious as daring and adventuresome robbers By an ancient arrangement Ghatwars are appointed by the Maharaja to guard the pass from Bamdahi to Btira and they are supposed to accompany travellers through the pass I believe the object of this arrangement was to protect travellers from thieves as well as from wild animals One reason why these thieves find Chakai so convenient a centre is because it is near the borders of three other districts, Hazaribagh, Santhal Parganas and Bhagalpur The thieves can easily do a night's work in villages (some of the important centres like Baidyanath) in those other districts and be back to their own villages in the morning They are chiefly found in large village, Chandermandi, near Nawada (often called Chor Nawada) and Karangarh about five miles from Chakai *thana* There is very little secrecy about their way of life and otherwise honest and respectable people in the neighbourhood buy all sorts of articles from them, knowing quite well that they have been stolen They are not very particular regarding the articles they steal, although perhaps they may be said to have a partiality for brass vessels, foodstuffs Clothing and standing crops are frequently stolen and they are also cattle raiders, sheep and goats at any rate being very frequently stolen

‘ They are remarkably expert I have known of cases in our own Mission Hospital here, where they have stolen the bedding on which a man was lying and also the gold spectacle he was wearing, without his being conscious of the fact at the time I have been told that they will steal a *lota* from the midst of a group of travellers camped round a fire at night Their *modus operandi*

* These villages should offer an excellent field for a sociological investigation (P C R C)

is to approach the group, asking to be allowed to get a light from the fire, and to take opportunity of letting a noose fall over the neck of a *lota*. The *lota* is then jerked away, when nobody is watching it. They are also very daring. I have known them steal the clothes from off the body of a pilgrim woman by sheer force, leaving her practically naked, in the verandah of our hospital on a dark night. An illustration both of the daring and the expertness of the thieves was afforded some time ago when they dug through the walls of the Chakai *thana* and killed the Sub Inspector's horse.

"Hitherto the Dosadhs have also shown remarkable cleverness in evading the law. Some time ago a Santhal in Bamdih found a Dosadh, one of the leaders of the gang, stealing a sheep from his courtyard at night. He raised a hue and cry, and gave chase and the man was caught and taken to the *thana*. In due course the trial came on at Jamui, but the thief was acquitted and the man who caught him was prosecuted for assault or on some similar charge. Another fact that has helped to secure their immunity has been that there has been too little hostility to them and their doings on the part of their neighbours, who do not object to their stealing other people's property, and who also derive some profit by buying goods from the thieves at less than cost price. It used to be custom here, as in many other places to employ Dosadhs as village *chaukidars* and the people who remember that time tell me that when any thing was stolen, if they made sufficient noise about it, they always got it back through the *chaukidars*""*

It is painful to note that this criminal caste has not yet been fully reclaimed although much of the remarks do not apply now. The geographical position of this area helps them. It is easy for them to commit crime in neighbouring districts of Hazaribagh, Santhal Parganas, and Bhagalpur which lie on the borders of the *thana* and to return afterwards to their isolated homes and before daybreak. The rush of pilgrims at Baidyanath Dham gives an attraction of plunder.

On account of their habit of crime for generations, they were brought under the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act. This comparatively curbed their notorious activities. Since they are scattered in a very wild area they found it easy to escape police attendance and commit crime even during the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act, but fear of punishment on account of absence had some effect. The repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act in 1950

* Quoted from the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926)

removed the worst obstacle in the criminal path of the Dusadhs. After the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act a few of the more active Dusadhs have been brought under surveillance though actual surveillance is ineffective.

The epithet "Chakai Dusadh" is now applicable to large number of people inhabiting the hilly tracts in Jhajha and Chakai police stations in this district and almost all the border police stations of Hazaribagh (Bengabad and Deori), Santhal Parganas (Jasidih police station) and Bhagalpur and relations of the "Chakai Dusadhs" have learnt the trick of the trade from them. These may be termed to be the worst burglars of the country today.

They are mostly poor landless labourers and hard put to make both ends meet. This only necessitates an occupation and their instinct for crime is aroused. This reflects on their *modus operandi*. In the majority of cases, they cut *sendh* in mud walls and steal mostly foodgrains, goats, sheep, etc. Another favourable item of their prey is utensils, made of brass and copper. But the hardened Dusadh criminal who has learnt different types of burglaries by training and experience goes after richer booty also and his field of activity is now no longer as narrow as before. They are experts, daring and well versed in the tricks of their trade. Of late, they move in groups and when challenged, take to violence. They have a large number of sympathisers in the area in the richer inhabitants who almost all received the properties stolen by them.

The Dusadhs are scattered throughout the Chakai police station and Chandramandi Beat House areas. The villages inhabited by them are Golachakai, Nawada Kijori, Jhagrudih, Balagoji, Lakhua, Chandramandi, Raichor, Kaltanpur, Palanitanr, Karckaritanr etc. After the abolition of the Criminal Tribes Act they are not under surveillance and often quarrel with police and *chaukidars* sent to watch or picket them.

The question of Chakai Dusadhs is a question of control of burglary in vast areas in three or four districts. The difficulties are the following —

- (1) The unemployment and other economic difficulties of the Dusadhs
- (2) The unsocial habits of the Dusadhs who have been indulging in crime for generations
- (3) The repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act and the consequent removal of legal bar on their movements

A social education programme is necessary to reclaim them. The following measures may be indicated to tackle the problem —

- (1) Opening of schools and a mass scheme for bringing about a change of outlook in their mode of life

- (2) Enactment of Habitual Offenders Act or legislation
- (3) Organisation of *Gram Panchayat* and Village Development Force which can better look after the movements of the criminals than the *chaukidars*
- (4) The strength of Chakai police station and Chandramandi Beat House area may be augmented in order to make surveillance over the Dusadhs effective *

JAILS

The Juvenile Jail at Monghyr was transferred to Bhagalpur sometime in 1949. The jail at Monghyr is now simply a district jail. There are subsidiary jails at Begusarai, Jamui and Khagaria. The registered capacity of Monghyr jail is 453 including 8 for females. There are minor industries for *dumees*, *newar*, weaving, tailoring and prison clothings. The subsidiary jail at Jamui has accommodation of 37 male and 7 female prisoners and that at Begusarai for 24 male and 4 females. Jamui and Begusarai Sub Jails are affiliated to Monghyr District Jail. Khagaria Sub Jail is affiliated to Bhagalpur Jail.

At the District Jail at Monghyr there are two cells having the capacity of 8 prisoners.

There is a hospital in the Monghyr District Jail and it accommodates 34 prisoners. With a view to step up social reforms among the prisoners, mass literacy campaign is in vogue.

The District Jail has now a Superintendent of Jails in addition to Jailer and Assistant Jailors.

One portion of the District Jail at Monghyr has been separated for accommodating Gun Factory.

LEGAL PROFESSION

The legal profession consists of Advocates, Pleaders and Mukhtears. The practice Barristers from other places and particularly from Patna are often briefed. The members of the Bar Association have maintained the rich tradition of the past for their independence, integrity and co-operation with the courts. The Bar Association has its own building and a library. The Mukhtears have their own association and a library. As Mukhtears are no longer being recruited there is a gradual decline in their numbers. There is a close co-operation between the Mukhtears and the criminal courts.

* The above description of the Dhans and Dusadhs is based on the report of the District Magistrate and largely depends on the treatment in the last Gazetteer. There has not been any recent sociological investigation based on modern techniques. (P. C. R. C.)

CHAPTER XII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Income tax

Administration of income tax is a Central subject and is administered as such. The jurisdiction of the Income tax Officer Monghyr extends over the whole of Monghyr civil district. There are two Income tax Officers posted at Monghyr, one being known as Income tax Officer Ward 'A' and is also the Charge Officer and the other being known as Income tax Officer, Ward 'B'. The chief difference between the two is this that the former assesses only such cases that might have been assessed for Rs 10,000 or above previously and the latter assesses the cases falling under the income group below Rs 10,000. There are two sanctioned posts of the Income tax Inspectors in the district to assist the officers in their work.

The controlling officer of the Income tax Officers at Monghyr is the Assistant Commissioner of Income tax Northern Range with his headquarters at Patna. He in his turn, is under the Commissioner of Income tax with his headquarters at Patna whose jurisdiction extends over the whole of Bihar and Orissa.

For wealth tax purposes, in which the income tax is also included the Income tax Officer Special Circle with headquarters at Patna is the authority. He is also controlled by the Commissioner of Income tax, Patna.

For estate duty cases, including the income tax the Assistant Controller of Estate Duty *cum* Income tax with his headquarters at Patna is the authority. He is under the administrative control of Deputy Controller of Estate Duty, Calcutta Range, with his headquarters at Calcutta.

With regard to appeals, all the cases from the Income tax Officers of Monghyr lie with the Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income tax with his headquarters at Patna. He comes out on tour to the district headquarters to hear appeals. The next appeal lies with the Appellate Tribunal of Income tax with headquarters at Patna. There was an Appellate Tribunal with headquarters at Patna which was abolished a few years back. This Tribunal has again been opened in Patna in 1959.

The figures of assessment and collection of income tax along with the number of assessees are given below for four years —

Year	Arrear demand	Current demand	Collections		Number of assessees
			Gross	Net	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
1955 56	4 67 000	4 47 000	6 77 000	5 24 000	1 406
1956 57	2 22 000	3 27 000	3 41 000	2 33 000	962
1957 58	2 67 000	4 73 000	5 34 000	2 03 000	1 154
1958 59	2 98 000	5 43 000	2 83 000	2 01 000	1 749

The fluctuations in the number of assessees and collection vary rather largely. Among other reasons mention may be made of the fact that under orders of the higher authorities defunct assessees are struck off from the list from time to time. The prerogative of granting of time to the assessees if beyond the year affects the collection figures. Detection of new cases and plugging up leakages are also other factors.

Postal Department

The Postal Department including Telegraphs and Telephones is also under the Central Government. For the administration of postal services there is one Superintendent of Post Offices at the headquarters in the district. He is directly under the control of the Post Master General Bihar with his headquarters at Patna.

The jurisdiction of the Superintendent roughly extends over the whole of the civil district of Monghyr. For administrative purposes and for running the services efficiently the entire Monghyr Postal Division is subdivided into three subdivisions and each subdivision is under an Inspector of the rank of junior selection grade of the postal service. The headquarters of all the Inspectors are at Monghyr.

The postal subdivisions are known as North West Monghyr (roughly covering Khagaria civil subdivision), North East Monghyr (roughly covering the Begusarai civil subdivision) and Southern Monghyr (roughly covering the Jamui and Sadar civil subdivisions). The Inspectors in their town are assisted by fourteen Overseers.

spread all over the district. There is a large field staff of postal peons runners, etc. There is one Head Post Master of the senior selection grade of the postal service at the Head Post Office at Monghyr. Below him are six Post Masters of Inspector's rank that is of junior selection grade and control the selection sub post offices at Jamui, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Begusarai, Khagaria and Jamalpur. Below them are the Post Masters controlling the time scale sub post offices and at the lowest rung of the ladder are the Post Masters controlling the Extra Department Branch Post Offices.

Regarding the volume of work handled by the postal department in the district of Monghyr a reference to the Chapter 'Means of Communication' is necessary.

Central Excise

Prior to the financial year 1959-60 the administration of Central Excise in the district of Monghyr was being looked after by the Superintendents of Central Excise stationed at Bhagalpur and Begusarai, the former being in charge of the civil subdivisions of Sadar and Jamui and the latter of Begusarai and Khagaria. The Monghyr circle was created with effect from the 1st April, 1959 with the jurisdiction extending over the civil subdivisions of Sadar, Khagaria and Begusarai so far Monghyr district is concerned, and a Superintendent was put in charge of it. Jamui subdivision still remains under the Superintendent stationed at Bhagalpur.

The immediate controlling officer of the Superintendents of Central Excise at Monghyr and Bhagalpur is the Assistant Collector of Central Excise with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He, in his turn, is controlled by the Collector of Central Excise with his headquarters at Patna. The Superintendent at Monghyr is helped in the field work by one Deputy Superintendent, nine Inspectors, six Sub Inspectors and several sepoys for the collection of excise duty. Besides, he is helped by one Deputy Superintendent and two Preventive Intelligence Inspectors in the supervisory and preventive work respectively. This is the staff at the end of 1959.

The chief function of the Superintendent stationed at Monghyr is to look after the proper collection of excise duty levied by the Central Government from time to time. The commodities that are mainly dealt with by the Superintendent of Excise at Monghyr and within the district of Monghyr are tobacco (both manufactured and raw) and vegetable non-essential oil. There is a tobacco factory at Monghyr belonging to Imperial Tobacco Company, India (Limited). The existing charge of the Superintendent at Monghyr is subdivided into six units. They are (1) Imperial Tobacco Company (India) Ltd., Monghyr, (2) Monghyr Range, (3) Lakhisarai Range, (4) Bachwara Range, (5) Begusarai Range and (6) Khagaria Range.

A table is given below to show the rangewise collection of revenue in rupees for the last three years :—

Names of ranges	1950-57.			1957-58.			1958-59.					
	Tobacco.		Vegetable oils.	Tobacco.		Vegetable non-essential oils.	Tobacco.		Vegetable non-essential oils.			
	Unmanu- factured. (cigarettes).	Total.		Unmanu- factured. (cigarettes).	Total.		Unmanu- factured. (cigarettes).	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Imperial Tobacco Company (India) Ltd, Monghyr	35,57,005	63,50,010	..	99,17,521	44,28,932	73,63,000	..	1,17,91,932	44,01,954	74,59,000	..	1,10,11,914
2. Monghyr range	2,83,392	..	33,021	3,17,013	2,80,040	..	1,01,253	3,81,295	30,510	..	72,000	1,03,500
3. *Lakhisarai range	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	303	..	10,000	15,303
4. Bachwara range	25,481	..	..	25,481	41,032	..	..	41,032	35,360	..	..	35,360
5. *Khagaria range	55,079	..	..	55,079	77,544	..	..	77,544	53,854	..	185	54,039
6. Begusarai range	48,024	..	..	48,024	52,146	..	..	52,146	20,831	..	70	20,001
Total ..	39,70,481	63,59,010	33,021	1,03,63,718	48,80,294	73,63,000	1,01,255	1,23,44,049	45,92,872	74,59,000	88,251	1,21,41,083

NOTE.—In the area of Monghyr civil district falling under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Central Excise, Bhagalpur, Jhajha is the only place where tax is assessed on tobacco imported from Gujrat for *Biri*. The average annual revenue from Jhajha to Central Excise Department is Rs. 10,00,000.

*The ranges of Khagaria and Lakhisarai were created on 1st April 1959 on account of increase in work-load with the imposition of tax even on such manufacturers of non-essential vegetable oils whose production did not exceed 75 tons annually. They were not required to pay tax earlier.

STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Public Works Department

Roads and Buildings

Two divisions of the Public Works Department are functioning in the district of Monghyr for purposes of roads and buildings. They are known as Monghyr Division and Khagaria Division. The Monghyr Division is meant for the Southern Monghyr with its jurisdiction extending over the civil subdivisions of Jamui and Sadar. The Khagaria Division looks after the work in North Monghyr with its jurisdiction over Khagaria and Begusarai civil subdivisions.

The Monghyr Division was created with effect from the 20th of July, 1951. Earlier the work of this area used to be looked after by the Bhagalpur Division. Prior to 1946-47 there was no responsibility for roads and the department was required to look after only the construction and maintenance of Government buildings.

When the Monghyr Division was created, a total of 168 miles of roads taken over by the department under non post war road improvement scheme from District Board became their responsibility. The department entered into the First Five Year Plan with the same road mileage and entered into the Second Five Year Plan with some carry over. During the Second Five Year Plan new roads measuring 85 miles, were also taken over by the department from the District Board. Almost all the roads taken over by this division have so far been completed and black topped, excepting a length of 13.5 miles which is to be improved during the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan.

The Monghyr Division is subdivided into four subdivisions namely, Monghyr, Lakhisarai, Jamui and the Project subdivision Monghyr, each being under the charge of an Assistant Engineer known as S D O P W D. There are eleven Sectional Officers spread over the entire Monghyr Division, to supervise the execution of new and repairs of old works under the guidance of the Subdivisional Officers. The Sectional Officers have the technical qualification of an overseer.

The division is under the charge of an Executive Engineer with his headquarters at Monghyr. He has to supervise the execution of the schemes, look after the work of the S D Os and to control the expenditure and give payment to the contractors. His controlling authority is the Superintending Engineer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Chief Engineer, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna is the technical and administrative head of the department.

The special attainments of the Monghyr Division could be said to be the construction of a few major bridges within its jurisdiction.

A table is given below to indicate the location as well as the cost of such bridges :—

Name and location of the bridge.	Approximate cost.
	Rs.
(1) Kiul Bridge at Jamui in the 50th mile of Sikandra - Jamui-Kharagpur-Bariarpur-Ghorghat Road.	16,81,397
(2) Anjan Bridge in the 62nd mile of the road mentioned in item one.	2,02,593
(3) Belhar Causeway in the 6th mile of Kharagpur-Tarapur Road.	77,495
(4) Khalifa Causeway in the 3rd mile of the road mentioned in item no. 3.	48,618
(5) Rajdar Causeway in the 2nd mile of Tarapur-Belhar Road.	83,466
(6) Main Bridge in the 99th mile of Sikandra-Jamui - Kharagpur - Bariarpur-Ghorghat Road.	2,62,450
(7) Bela Bridge in the 26th mile of Pakri-Barwan-Sikandra Road.	2,35,090
(8) Kailash Bridge in the 21st mile of the road mentioned in item no. 7.	1,73,705
(9) Nagi Bridge in the 14th mile of Jamui-Chakai Road.	4,87,120
(10) Ulai Bridge in the 19th mile of Jamui-Chakai Road.	7,44,274
(11) Chiraijor Bridge in the 24th mile of Jamui-Chakai Road.	2,24,290
(12) Belatar Causeway in the 30th mile of Jamui-Chakai Road.	81,320
(13) Jhaji Causeway in the 31st mile of Jamui-Chakai Road.	1,38,970
(14) Kiul Bridge at Lakhisarai in the 80th mile of Barhiya-Lakhisarai-Surajgarha-Monghyr Road.	15,83,420
(15) Harohar Bridge at Barahiya in the 77th mile of Monghyr Road under construction.	13,33,869

The organisational set-up of the office of the Executive Engineer, P. W. D., at Khagaria district is of the same pattern. The Executive

Engineer has his headquarters at Khagaria and there are a number of sections in the civil subdivisions of Khagaria and Begusarai under Subdivisional Officers. This division had a lesser mileage of roads before as many parts are affected by the floods. Recently, however, there have been additions in both roads and buildings.

Barauni which was a village but an important railway junction in Begusarai civil subdivision is fast developing and will soon be one of the most important industrial areas in the State. There will be a refinery, a thermal power station, and a number of other subsidiaries. At the end of 1959 a number of buildings for the use of different State departments are under construction. A rest house for the thermal power station staff, an inspection bungalow belonging to the P. W. D., another for the Electricity Department are under construction. New buildings are going up in connection with the extension of railways. Thousands of acres of land belonging to the villagers in the neighbourhood have been acquired for the refinery. First class roads are to be constructed to connect the area with Barauni and Begusarai. The industrialisation of Barauni area will usher in improvements in roads and buildings throughout North Monghyr. Barauni area is a very important work site for both the State P. W. D. and the Central P. W. D. at the moment.

Public Health Engineering Department

There is no division of Public Health and Engineering Department in the district of Monghyr. But there are three subdivisions of the department functioning in the district with headquarters at the towns of Monghyr, Khagaria and Begusarai and each of them is known by the same name. Each subdivision is under a Subdivisional Officer of the department. The jurisdiction of Monghyr subdivision extends over the whole of Sadar and Jamui civil subdivisions and that of Khagaria and Begusarai subdivisions (Public Health Engineering Department) over the civil subdivisions of Khagaria and Begusarai respectively. These Subdivisional Officers execute the work with the help of a number of Sectional Officers whose duties are to construct and supervise the water supply and sanitary installations under the guidance and control of the Subdivisional Officers. The Monghyr subdivision was in existence from before but the Khagaria and Begusarai subdivisions were created in June, 1959.

The Monghyr subdivision of Public Health Engineering Department falls under the jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, Bhagalpur Division with the headquarters at Bhagalpur, whereas the Khagaria and Begusarai subdivisions fall under the jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, Darbhanga Division with the headquarters at Darbhanga. Both the Executive Engineers in their turn, are under the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Engineering Circle, Muzaffarpur with his headquarters at the same place. But

after the 7th December, 1959, the Executive Engineer, Bhagalpur Division would go under the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Engineering Circle, Patna, with the headquarters at Patna. At the State level the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department at Patna is the technical and administrative head.

Before the creation of the subdivisions at Khagaria and Begusarai, the Monghyr subdivision had sunk 848 tube wells in the civil district of Monghyr. Out of these only 76 fell in South Monghyr and the rest in North Monghyr. All the tube wells sunk by the Public Health Engineering Department and falling under the North Monghyr were transferred to the Public Health Engineering subdivisions of Khagaria and Begusarai. They have also been given the charge of maintaining the tube wells sunk by the District Board and the relief agencies of the civil subdivisions of Khagaria and Begusarai. The tube wells falling in South Monghyr are under the control of the Public Health Engineering Subdivision, Monghyr. The Monghyr subdivision is constructing a R. C. C. water supply tower at Monghyr at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.50 lakh to supply drinking water to Monghyr town. The water tower existing here from before is not able to cope with the increased demand and also requires overhaul and that is why the construction of a new water tower has been taken up. The scheme is to construct the water tower and make over the same to the local municipality for maintenance. The work of the water supply to Begusarai and Khagaria has been taken up.

Electricity Department

In the last decade there has been a very great development in Bihar so far as provision of electricity for domestic, industrial or other uses is concerned. Before 1956 the State Department of Electricity had nothing to do with Monghyr district and providing the electricity was taken to be the responsibility of the Electric Supply Companies. The supply of power has been the main reason for the development and possible industrialisation of North Bihar.

The Electrical Division at Monghyr was created on the 9th July, 1956 under an Electrical Executive Engineer to look after the electricity work being done in the southern part of the civil district of Monghyr and in North Monghyr there is an Electrical Subdivision at Begusarai under the Katihar Electrical Division. The immediate controlling authority of the Executive Engineer, Monghyr Division, is the Electrical Superintending Engineer, Patna Electrical Circle, with his headquarters at Patna. He, in his turn, is controlled by the Chief Electrical Engineer, State Electricity Board with his headquarters at Patna.

The Monghyr Electrical Division is subdivided into three subdivisions of Monghyr, Lakhisarai and Jhajha, each being under an Assistant Electrical Engineer, departmentally known as Electrical

Subdivisional Officers There are Sectional Officers in the division at different places. They are to assist the Electrical Subdivisional Officers in the field and supervision of work.

It is the supply of electrical energy to the consumers that the division is charged with and it has to construct and maintain the supply lines and transformers, etc. The division itself is known as Electrical Supply Division. It maintains only one power house at Monghyr and also gets electrical energy from the Damodar Valley Corporation.

Seven towns, namely, Monghyr, Jamalpur, Surajgarha, Lakhisarai, Jhajha, Bariarpur and Jamui, had been electrified by the division till the end of 1958. The number of villages electrified till that period was fifteen. It is understood that the small number is not due to the apathy of the villagers but due to departmental difficulties for running expensive power lines. The spread of electricity in the rural areas has been helpful for the development of cottage and small industries besides elevating the standard of life in the villages. Electricity for domestic use in the villages was beyond imagination only a decade back.

A table is given below to show the service functions done by the division till the end of 1958 —

No of domestic lights and fan connections	3 912
No of domestic power	61
No of industrial connections	141
No of agricultural connections	40
No of street light	899
H T bulk supply connections	4

Employment Exchange

Prior to October, 1956, the Directorate of Employment Exchange was under the Central Government and there used to be a Regional Director of National Employment at the State level. But since October, 1956 the department has come under the State Government and the administrative head is known as the State Director of National Employment Service. His headquarters is at Patna. Below him is the Deputy Director of National Employment Service with his headquarters at Patna. The jurisdiction of both these officers extends over the entire State of Bihar. Below the Deputy Director is the Regional Employment Officer with his headquarters at Patna. His jurisdiction extends over Patna, Mokameh, Bhagalpur, Dalmianagar, Daltonganj and Monghyr. The work of Employment Exchange in the district of Monghyr is looked after by the District Employment Officer of gazetted rank. He has no field staff but has some office assistants to assist him in the work. The District Employment Officer is controlled by the Regional Employment Officer, Patna.

The chief function of the District Employment Officer is to find employment for the unemployed. It is his duty to be in touch with different sources of employment and to make the Exchange popular with them. The idea is that the unemployed men and women irrespective of their age, educational qualifications, etc., will enroll themselves indicating their preference for particular trade for employment. The entries are categorised and whenever there is a demand from any employer the Exchange office sends up the names of the possible candidates.

The District Employment Exchange Officer has also to maintain various registers indicating the incidence of unemployment and the particular role the Exchange plays. It is, however, regrettable that the Employment Exchange is not properly utilised either by the State Department or commercial concerns or other employers. The Employment Exchange has not been able to do much useful work so far, and one of the reasons is want of any obligation on the part of at least the State Departments to consult the Employment Exchange for filling up vacancies.

A statement is given below to show the number of applicants registered, placed and standing in the Live Register at the end of each year for five years —

Year	Number of applicants registered	Number of applicants placed	Number of applicants on the Live Register at the end of the year
1954	11 528	398	8 156
1955	10 856	455	14 814
1956	7 668	495	9 831
1957	6 827	343	7 342
1958	3 063	203	6 143

The fluctuations in the figures under columns 2 and 4 indicate that because of the poor role of the Exchange the unemployed are also allergic to take the help of the Exchange.

Agricultural Department

The District Agricultural Department is under the District Agricultural Officer with his headquarters at Monghyr. He is under the controlling authority of the Deputy Director of Agriculture with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Director of Agriculture, Bihar

with his headquarters at Patna is the technical and administrative head of the department

The jurisdiction of the District Agricultural Officer extends over the whole of the civil district of Monghyr. For purposes of administration the entire jurisdiction of the District Agricultural Officer is subdivided into four subdivisions of Sadar, Jamui, Begusarai and Khagaria with jurisdictions exactly connecting with each of the civil subdivisions of the district bearing the same name. Each of the Agricultural subdivisions is placed under a Subdivisional Agricultural Officer with headquarters at each of the civil subdivisional headquarters.

Apart from the Subdivisional Agricultural Officers, the District Agricultural Officer is assisted by one specialist in each of the sub-branches of agriculture, namely, agronomy, horticulture, botany and chemistry. These specialists are all stationed at Monghyr. Besides, he has a Fisheries Inspector with his headquarters at Monghyr and another Fisheries Inspector with his headquarters at Hathidah to look after the Mokameh Lake Project. There are vehicles of the department and a maintenance staff for them.

Besides, there are one Field Experiment Specialist for Research and Experiment, a Junior Research Assistant in charge of Agronomy with one field man at the district farm, one District Engineering Supervisor for irrigation, one Well Boring Supervisor and an Agricultural Inspector assisted by a Sardar and 10 ploughmen at the district farm directly under the District Agricultural Officer.

At the subdivisional level, the Subdivisional Agricultural Officer is also assisted by a number of field staff. Each Subdivisional Agricultural Officer has one Agricultural Inspector at the headquarters in charge of Personal Ledger Depot (*seeds, implements, etc.*, stored from the personal ledger account of the Deputy Director of Agriculture) with five to six *Kamdars*. There are one Fisheries Supervisor, one Junior Horticultural Inspector, four to five Field Assistants to look after the experiment on fertilisers used for different crops on different soils, an Additional District Engineering Supervisor with Engineering Overseers and Work Sarkars to prepare and supervise medium irrigation schemes, and Well Borers wherever necessary. Besides, there are eight Agricultural Extension Blocks in the district, each of which is looked after directly by the Subdivisional Agricultural Officers with the help of an Agricultural Inspector assisted by a subordinate field staff. Such Agricultural Extension Blocks are meant to be ultimately turned into National Extension Service Blocks when the Block Development Officer takes charge of the Agricultural Extension staff also, although in the technical matters they remain under the S D O (Agriculture) of the subdivision in which the Block may fall.

Apart from the above noted staff working under the Subdivisional Agricultural Officers, the staff working in each of the 21 full-fledged National Extension Blocks in the district are also under them for technical purposes.

An Agricultural School is run in the district at Jamui from 1954 by the Agriculture Department. There is provision for 120 students each year. The course is for one year. Fifty per cent of the successful candidates from this institution are taken in for six months' training in the Extension Training Centre at Monghyr, from where the successful candidates are taken in as Village Level Workers. The Extension Training Centre at Monghyr also accommodates the successful candidates from other Agricultural Schools functioning in each district of the Bhagalpur Division.

The Agriculture Department also maintains a district agricultural farm at Monghyr proper with an area of 207 acres. On the general agricultural side the farm is run by an Agricultural Inspector in charge of the farm. The Junior Agronomical Research Assistant conducts experiments on an area of 10 acres of the farm. Botanical experiments are conducted in another section of the farm on an area of about 30 acres.

The Agriculture Department maintains 21 seed multiplication farms in the district and one more farm is under acquisition which, when acquired, would raise the number of such farms to 22.

The Chapter "Agriculture and Irrigation" gives more information on the subject.

Animal Husbandry Department.

The Animal Husbandry Department at the district level is under the District Animal Husbandry Officer with his headquarters at Monghyr. His Controlling Officer is the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He, in his turn, is controlled by the Director of Animal Husbandry, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna.

In order to run the administration at the district level, the district is subdivided into four subdivisions roughly corresponding with the area of the civil subdivisions in the district and each subdivision is put in charge of a Subdivisional Officer of the department with headquarters at the civil subdivisional headquarters, excepting at the Sadar subdivision where the work is looked after by the District Animal Husbandry Officer himself.

Below the Subdivisional Officers of the department are the veterinary doctors at each of the 22 class I veterinary hospitals run by the department in the district. Then there are one Animal Husbandry Extension Supervisor with two Stockmen and one Veterinary Messenger at each of the 21 blocks functioning in the

district For operational matters they are under the respective Block Development Officers but for technical purposes they are controlled by the Subdivisional Officers in their respective jurisdiction

For further information the Chapter on "Agriculture and Irrigation" may be consulted

Forest Department

The Forest Department in the division of Monghyr is placed under the Divisional Forest Officer with his headquarters at Monghyr. The immediate superior of the Divisional Forest Officer Monghyr is the Conservator of Forest, Northern Circle, with his headquarters at Hazaribagh. The Conservator of Forest is under the Chief Conservator of Forest with his headquarters at Ranchi and is controlled by the Revenue Department of the Government of Bihar.

The Forest Division is subdivided into six Ranges, 18 Beats and 124 Sub beats. Each Range of the Division consists of 3 Beats and several Sub beats, varying between 18 to 24 in different Beats. Each Range is placed under a Range Officer and each Beat under a Beat Officer. These Sub beats are looked after by the Forest Guards.

Afforestation of forest is also done, wherever necessary, every year. For afforestation purposes the Monghyr Forest Division falls under the Divisional Forest Officer of Afforestation Division with his headquarters at Deoghar. He is charged with the task of planting above 1,000 acres of blank forest areas every year within the Monghyr Forest Division. Some afforestation work has already been done in the Monghyr Forest Division. For further treatment of forest in this district the section under Forest in the Chapter "General" may be seen.

Industries Department

There is a District Industries Officer whose jurisdiction extends over the entire civil district of Monghyr. He is controlled by the Director of Industries, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna. The District Industries Officer is helped by three Inspectors of Industries, two of whom are posted in the mofussil and one is attached to the office of the Industries Officer at the headquarters. For administrative purposes the Inspectors placed at mofussils are controlled by the Subdivisional Officers of Jammu and Begusarai. But in the technical matters they are under the control of the District Industries Officer.

Besides, there are also a number of assisting Field Officers to the District Industries Officer in the Block areas. There is one Industrial Extension Supervisor for every two Blocks in the district and at a few places one for a single Block separately. The total number of Block Industrial Extension Supervisors is 12.

There are two industrial training centres functioning under the supervision of the District Industries Officer at Monghyr, namely,

Women's Industrial School, Monghyr for knitting and embroiding and Improved Blacksmithy *cum* Workshop at Purbarsari, Monghyr. The Women's Training School, which was started in 1940, imparts one year's training to 60 students out of which 20 trainees get stipend at the rate of Rs 20 per month. The Improved Blacksmithy *cum* Workshop which was started in 1956, imparts training to 12 students in different trades for one year. Stipend at the rate of Rs 0.75 is given to each trainee per working day. It is a production *cum* training centre and so far Rs 4,000 worth of output has been sold. Seven trainers are there at each of the training schools to teach the trainees in different crafts.

Education Department

The Education Department at the district level is controlled by the District Education Officer of Class I State Education Service with his headquarters at Monghyr. The Regional Director of Education with his headquarters at Bhagalpur is the immediate superior of the District Education Officer. The Director of Public Instructions with his headquarters at Patna, is the head of the department at the State level.

At the district level the District Education Officer is assisted by a number of officers in running his department efficiently.

Each subdivision is placed in charge of a Subdivisional Education Officer with the headquarters at each of the civil subdivisional headquarters.

At the district level the District Education Officer is helped by the District Superintendent of Education and five Deputy Superintendents of Education and one Social Education Organiser with their headquarters at Monghyr. Then there are five Deputy Inspectors of Schools, one at each of the subdivisional headquarters and one in the district headquarters. Below the Deputy Inspectors are the Sub Inspectors of Schools numbering about fifty in the whole district.

For the supervision of girls' education, in the district the District Education Officer is helped by the District Inspectress of Schools with her headquarters at Monghyr. There are three Deputy Inspectresses of Schools posted at each of the mufassil subdivisional headquarters.

For other details, the Chapter on "Education and Culture" may be seen.

Co-operative Department

The administration of Co-operative Department at the district level in Monghyr is run with the help of two Assistant Registrars. One of them looks after the administration of co-operatives in South Monghyr with his headquarters at Monghyr and the other Assistant Registrar looks after the administration in North Monghyr with his headquarters at Begusarai. They are under the Divisional

Deputy Registrar with his headquarters at Bhagalpur The Registrar of Co-operatives with his headquarters at Patna is the administrative head of the department at the State level

The Assistant Registrar at the district level has to deal with two types of staff, one of which are those who are under his control and supervision for all purposes and another are those who are under the Assistant Registrars only for the general supervision purposes and for technical purposes they are governed by one or more of the Assistant or Deputy Registrars at the State level for their particular technical work Among those who fall under the first category mention may be made of the Extension Supervisors, Co-operative Inspectors and General Manager, Co-operative Central Bank Even in this category of staff, the extension supervisors are controlled by the Block Development Officers in respect of operational matters In the other category are the Branch Manager of Land Mortgage Bank, Auditors, Inspectors for Weavers Co-operative Societies Managers for *Vyapar Mandals*, Farm Managers, Senior Supervisors for Weavers' Co-operative Societies, and the Supervisors for Oilmen's Co-operative Societies, etc

Public Relations Department

There are two District Public Relation Officers in the district, one for South Monghyr and the other for North Monghyr The first has his headquarters at Monghyr and the other at Begusarai They are under the District Magistrate for general purposes

The Director of Public Relations with his headquarters at Patna is the head of the department and controls the District Public Relation Officers at the district level The District Public Relation Officers have been given some field staff to help them in their work

Khadi and Village Industries

At the State level there is a State Khadi and Village Industries Board consisting of five non-official members including a Chairman and a Secretary and an Advisory Board consisting of 14 non-official members including a Chairman There is a Chief Executive Officer who is a State Civil servant for administration of the policy and schemes of the Board He is under the administrative control of the Director of Industries

As regards *khadi*, the schemes could broadly be divided into two classes, viz, *Khadi* (traditional) and *Ambar Charkha* propagation scheme The *Khadi* scheme has provision for production as well as marketing of *khadi* produced and is financed by the Khadi Commission

The *Ambar Charkha* scheme is an integrated one and comprises of all the stages from the spinning of the yarn to the marketing of

khadi produced from such yarns This also is financed by the Khadi Commission

The village industries schemes comprise Village Oil Industry Bee-keeping, Handmade paper, Village Leather Industry, Cottage Match Industry, Hand pounding of rice and grinding of *atta* by hand-driven *chakki* (grinder), Soap-making with non-edible oils, Pottery, Palm Gur, Gur and Khandsari and Fibre Industry

There is also a proposal to start the training *cum* production centres for village blacksmithy and carpentry under the Commission

In the district of Monghyr the Board has a unit consisting of a District Khadi Worker, an Inspector of Village Oil Industry, three Supervisors for Hand pounding Industry and one Supervisor for Palm Gur Industry They are under the Divisional Unit at Bhagalpur In the district of Monghyr there are demonstration centres for giving demonstration in improved methods of manufacture of *gur* and *khandsari* at Barbiglia, Jamui and Tarapur.

CHAPTER XIII

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

HISTORY OF THE LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The local self governing bodies in the district are the district board, local boards, municipalities union committees, notified area committees and the *gram panchayats*

The history of municipalities and the district board dates back from as early as the second half of the nineteenth century

MUNICIPALITIES

There are two municipalities in the district, viz, Monghyr and Jamalpur

Monghyr Municipality

The Monghyr Municipality was established in 1864. At first the Municipal Board consisted of 19 commissioners of whom twelve were elected, five were nominated and two were *ex officio* members. The area within the municipal limit was 762 square miles and remained the same in 1926 when the revised edition of the Monghyr District Gazetteer was compiled. The present area of the municipality is 671 square miles and this diminution is reported to be due to the encroachment of the river Ganga in the northern side of the town.

The municipal area is divided into specified units known as wards. The electorate of each ward elects their representative. Before 1938 there were 12 wards, eight of which were plural seated and the rest four were single seated. In 1938 the number of wards was increased from 12 to 20 single seated ones, and there were 8,049 voters in all the 20 wards. The number of nominated members continued to be five.

In 1950 though the number of wards remained static, but out of 20 wards, 13 became double-seated and the rest were single seated. The total strength of the municipal commissioners rose to 40 including seven nominated members. In 1950 the election was contested for the first time on the basis of adult franchise. After the expiry of five years from the constitution of the Board, election was again held in 1956 and the present Board was constituted in 1957. The number of the members remained 40 including the nominated members. In both the elections the Congress Party ran their candidates and got the majority of seats.

The number of taxpayers in 1957 was 10,930 representing about 15 per cent of the population residing in the municipal area*. The average annual income and expenditure of the municipality

* The total number of electors in this Municipality according to the latest revision of electoral rolls is 39,632.

during the quinquennium of 1952-53 to 1956-57 was Rs 7,24,932 and Rs 6,12,846 respectively. The main sources of income are from the holding tax, water tax and the latrine tax. The former two taxes are assessed at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the latter at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the annual valuation of the buildings. There are also other sources of income, viz., tolls, taxes on animals and vehicles and the market fees. There is only one ferry under the municipality, i.e., the Monghyr ferry which is administered by the District Magistrate and the annual income is credited to the municipal fund. The average annual income from the ferry comes to Rs 36,000*.

The main items of expenditure are over education, conservancy, water supply, street lighting, public works and medical relief. The Board maintains 26 upper primary and 56 lower primary schools and meets an expenditure of about one lakh rupees over these schools annually. The sanitation and medical relief are looked after by a Government Health Officer deputed at the expense of the Board. So far as medical relief is concerned, the Board comes into picture only when there is an epidemic or threat of epidemic. No dispensary is maintained by the municipality. The conservancy staff consists of Sanitary and Health Inspectors, *Jamadars* and sweepers. The annual average expenditure over conservancy is Rs 1,44,507. The total mileage of roads maintained by the Board is 100.0. Most of these roads are metalled and coal tarred, the annual maintenance cost being Rs 41,703. Heavy vehicular traffic is responsible for quick deterioration of some of the roads. Street lights (electric) have been provided almost throughout the town. The Municipal Board maintains and runs their waterworks which supply filtered water throughout the town.

Water-supply—The actual year of the installation of piped water-supply at Monghyr is obscure. From the old District Gazetteer of Monghyr published in 1909 it is gathered that the scheme was then in contemplation. It is mentioned that "The installation of water works at Monghyr is also contemplated, and a scheme for a daily supply of 4,00,000 gallons of filtered water has been sanctioned. It is estimated to cost Rs 3,46,715 excluding the charge for the arrangements for pumping unfiltered water. As regards the latter, the East Indian Railway Company, which has a pumping station for the supply of water at Jamalpur, has agreed to give a daily supply of 4,00,000 gallons at the rate of 10 pies per 1,000 gallons, subject to future variation according to actual expenses incurred. The Company has undertaken to maintain the supply for five years and to give the municipality a year's notice before it decides to discontinue it." It appears that the arrangement could not run satisfactorily and the municipality had to set a pumping plant at the Kastaharnighat in 1913. But there was the total breakdown of the unfiltered

* Tax on Trade, Profession, Callings and Employment has been imposed in 1956-57 in spite of vehement opposition.

water pumping plant in 1914 and the municipality had to negotiate with the East Indian Railway Administration (now Eastern Railway) for the supply of unfiltered water to the municipal settling tanks at the waterworks, which actually commenced on the 16th October, 1924. The municipality had to pay to the East Indian Railway Administration annually about Rs 25,000 for the unfiltered water-supply, which was really a heavy drain on the slender resources of the municipality with the result that the waterworks was generally run at a very heavy deficit almost every year.

The localities at the higher levels of the town could not be supplied with water owing to the low pressure from the old steel over head tank and as such the Superintending Engineer of the Public Health Circle, Bihar was moved for a comprehensive re-organisation scheme of the waterworks. But the great earthquake of 1934 not only stood in the way of the re-organisation scheme but considerably damaged the existing water-supply system reducing the supply of water by about 50 per cent. Between 1936 and 1937 after a strenuous effort the re-organisation scheme of the waterworks was completed at a total cost of Rs 85,000 by the Public Health Engineering Department. The expansion scheme was again taken up and was completed in 1938-39 at the cost of Rs 43,000.

The waterworks is now supplying on the average about 18,00,000 gallons per day. But the existing supply is not adequate for a population of about 80,000. The re-organisation scheme is still in progress. For this the Government have sanctioned Rs 13 lakhs to the municipality while the total scheme will cost Rs 21.34 lakhs.

Statement of receipts and expenditure of the Monghyr Municipality from 1952-53 to 1956-57 is given below —

Heads of receipts	1952 53	1953 54	1954 55	1955 56	1956 57
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Municipality rates and taxes	2,73,622	3,12,170	2,04,698	2,46,607	3,03,762
Realisation under Special Act	3,319	4,001	4,508	7,856	6,103
Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation	18,465	15,230	14,923	42,299	20,476
Grants and contribution for general and special purpose	1,82,649	2,86,841	3,10,327	1,81,003	2,93,075
Miscellaneous	10,411	44,796	27,865	9,850	22,027
Extraordinary	1,16,621	1,99,830	1,30,098	33,602	02,167
Total	6,14,287	8,62,877	7,87,310	5,21,217	7,39,401

Heads of Expenditure	1952 53	1953 54	1954 55	1955 56	1956 57
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
General administration and collection charges	26,383	27,055	25,454	35,441	32,771
Public safety	11,276	1,31,128	1,51,137	7,588	13,015
Public health and convenience	4,25,432	3,36,268	2,42,376	2,73,162	2,29,251
Public instruction	82,831	1,30,939	85,027	60,619	95,081
Contribution for general purposes					
Miscellaneous	23,937	56,715	1,24,743	37,008	80,829
Extraordinary and debts	1,09,569	2,20,545	57,430	63,930	1,31,341
Total	0,79,427	9,02,650	0,86,167	4,77,748	5,82,288

The fall in both the income and expenditure in 1955 56 is peculiar. Although there was an enhancement in the house, latrine and water taxes, there was less of realisation because of a wide agitation against the enhancement*.

Jamalpur Municipality

This municipality was established in 1883. The town of Jamalpur has its importance because of the railway colony in connection with the Jamalpur Railway Station and the Workshop. The existing constitution came into force as a result of an award made by Mr. Toplis, the then Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division in 1931 when the question of revision of taxes payable by the railways was taken up. According to that award, the railway undertook to pay annually a sum of Rs. 44,000 as against Rs. 27,000 which was actually payable in respect of the railway properties on account of taxes. In 1933 an agreement was executed between the municipality and the Railway Administration on the basis of this award. In lieu of the contribution, the railway got 10 out of 20 seats in the Board and the nominations for these 10 seats were to be made by the Railway Administrations and formally accepted by the State Government. The Chairman of the Municipal Board is appointed by the Government according to the terms of that award. The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer of Eastern Railway is the *ex officio* Chairman of the Board. The same constitution is still in force. The last election was held in 1931 and since then no election was held. Some of the municipal commissioners are agitating for

* See Appendix for Receipt and Expenditure after 1956 57

revision of this arrangement in order to provide for elections for all the seats. The matter is under examination by the Government. The question of revision of contribution has also been taken up particularly in view of the fact that taxes have gone up higher.

According to the census of 1951 this municipality has a population of 44,172, the railway employees and their dependants accounting for 33,126. Of these 5,567 are rate payers or form 12.6 per cent of the population. It has an area of 5.34 square miles as against 4 square miles in 1926. The total number of electors is 20,610.

The main sources of income are from holding and latrine taxes and the railway contribution of Rs 44,000. The holding and latrine taxes amount to Rs 92,239 and the average incidence of taxation works out at Rs 3.25 per head. The rates of taxation are the same as in Monghyr Municipality. There are also other sources of income, viz, rent from stalls, pounds, markets and license fees. The average annual income is Rs 2,60,221. The main items of expenditure are over education, conservancy, public works, street lighting and medical relief. The municipality maintains 16 upper primary and 11 lower primary schools and spends over Rs 57,000 annually over them. The annual expenditure over sanitation is nearly Rs 87,692. The Board maintains a Health Officer specially deputed by Government at the Board's expense and a Sanitary Inspector along with three *Jamadars* and 195 sweepers. It has a dispensary of its own over which about Rs 6,000 is annually spent. The roads maintained by the Board extend over 26.8 miles and are maintained at an average annual cost of Rs 23,749. Most of these roads are metalled and coal tarred and have also been provided with lights. The average annual expenditure of the Board under all the heads is Rs 2,15,147. The statement showing the receipts and expenditure is given below --

INCOME

Items	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
I	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Municipal rates and taxes	1,06,438	1,38,199	1,41,454	1,29,852	1,53,121	1,30,254
Realisation under special Act	200	230	675	793	2	7
Revenue derived from municipal property	15,511	14,240	16,252	12,401	16,605	15,685
Grants	79,725	77,675	77,636	98,920	1,20,469	82,223
Miscellaneous	19,715	7,955	6,554	7,723	29,899	4,127
Government loan	3,916					
Extraordinary and debts ..	2,975	3,810	2,316	17,886	23,632	2,156
Total	2,28,479	2,42,109	2,44,887	2,67,575	3,43,728	2,34,452

EXPENDITURE.

Items	1952 53	1953 54	1954 55	1955 56	1956 57	1957 58
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
General administration and collection charges	13,835	14,582	15,233	14,300	22,144	20,226
Public safety	2,603	2,886	2,851	424	5,048	2,905
Public health and convenience	1,06,394	1,76,035	1,46,308	1,62,627	1,89,879	1,68,715
Miscellaneous ..	5,895	8,157	8,122	9,781	9,212	7,390
Education .	39,052	43,220	54,358	57,201	66,195	68,198
Extraordinary and debts	4,202	6,438	7,064	11,795	34,456	0,401
Total	2,31,981	2,52,324	2,33,936	2,56,131	3,27,834	2,76,884*

Town Planning

According to the census of 1951 the district has 13 towns, viz, Monghyr (class II 50,000 to 1,00,000), Jamalpur and Barahiya (class III 20,000 to 50,000), Lakhisarai, Teghra, Sheikhpura, Begusarai, Phulwaria, Jamui, Jhajha, Barbigha and Khagaria (class IV, 10,000 to 20,000) and Kharagpur (class V 5,000 to 10,000). Except Monghyr and Jamalpur the other towns had been classified on the basis of population only and in outlook they have mostly rural characteristics. At present there is no scheme for town planning in the district. The towns have been allowed to grow rather in a haphazard manner. There is practically no scheme for the building of tenements to replace the age-old slum areas. The houses are mostly *katcha* and lack the modern scientific amenities and due to congestions and bad drainage their surroundings are extremely filthy. Monghyr and Jamalpur are the principal towns of Monghyr district and deserve special treatment.

Monghyr—In the earthquake of Bihar, 1934, especially the Chauk area of Monghyr suffered a very heavy loss. This area was very much congested and packed with big and small houses. Some of the roads and lanes were so narrow that it was difficult to pass with loads on heads. A large number of houses had fallen down in the earthquake. The result was that a large number of inhabitants and animals could not come out from the debris caused by the earthquake in spite of the timely help from the several agencies.

After the earthquake, a Town Planning Scheme was taken up by the Monghyr Municipality. The earthquake was an eye-opener, and it was realised that there must not be a severe type of congestion

* Professional tax was imposed in 1959-60. For later figures of Receipts and Expenditure see Appendix.

Government grants were received by the municipality for the under-noted works :—

	Rs..
(i) Roads and Buildings	1,55,734
(ii) Water-supply and Sanitary Projects ...	56,644
(iii) Other charges	1,16,186
(iv) Construction of Raja Bazar Market ..	1,16,186

After the completion of the Town Planning Scheme the Chauk area of Monghyr has a better outlook. The locality has been provided with broad roads and lanes and with *pucca* drains. The total length of the *pucca* drains is 30 miles and of *katcha* 28 miles, of *pucca* roads 47 miles and *katcha* roads 53 miles. The Town Planning Scheme has provision for future development of the town.

Apart from Chauk area there had not been much improvement in the other areas. There are many slum areas in the town, viz., Lalupokhar Gorhitola, Laldarwaza Gorhitola, Chandisthan Gorhitola, Chaukhandi Gorhitola, Topkhana Bazar, Dilawarpur and Sadipur.

Public Garden.—The public garden is situated within the fort area just on the northern side of the old polo ground and the western side of the Circuit House. The area of the garden is about 7 to 8 acres. The garden is maintained by the Monghyr Municipality on an average cost of about four to five thousand rupees annually and the Government contributes Rs. 300 per annum. The garden has beautiful flower plants and ornamental trees. There are also a number of fruit trees, such as mangoes, *litchies*, etc.

The garden has got good walks all round for the pedestrians. On the northern side of the garden there is a small tank which adds to the beauty of the garden. A municipal rest house has also been constructed on the southern bank of the tank.

This Municipal garden is a remarkable landmark in the townscape of Monghyr. It is, however, not much used by the public.

Jamalpur.—As stated before Jamalpur is mainly a railway colony. The town is well planned and well maintained. The municipality has a reputation for efficiency. The railway quarters consist of bungalows and flats owned by the railway staff, and is neatly and prettily laid out. There are some fruit trees by the roads. The bazar which is separated from the railway colony have the useful features.

DISTRICT BOARD.

History.—The District Board of Monghyr was established in 1887 in pursuance of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885. The Board originally consisted of 25 members. The District Magistrate was an *ex-officio* member of the Board and was invariably its Chairman; there were other six *ex-officio* members, and twelve were

elected and six nominated by the Government. The franchise was restricted due to property and other special qualifications with the result that the common man had no say in the administration of the Board. In 1906-07 the land holding class and Government servants had predominance among the members, the former representing 40 per cent, and the latter 32 per cent while pleaders and *mukhtears* for 4 per cent and other class for 16 per cent. From the constitution of the Board in 1887 till 1917 the European District Magistrates used to be invariably the Chairman of the Monghyr District Board; the first being I. E. Kaunshead. The first two Indian Chairmen were Rai Bahadur G. C. Bannerji (1918) and Raja Deoki Nandan Prasad (1922).

In 1924-25 the District Boards were reconstituted on an elective basis under the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act. This was a definite mark of progress. The reconstituted District Board of Monghyr consisted of 37 members, of whom 28 were elected. The Board came to be presided over by a non-official Chairman for the first time. This amendment introduced a system of direct election to the District Board instead of the hitherto prevailing system of indirect election. Shri Shah Muhammad Zubair, Bar-at-Law, was the first Congressite Chairman of the Board.

The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act of 1924-25 though definitely a landmark in the history of Local Self-Government had still some official control. One-fourth of the members of the District Board were to be nominated by the Government. The franchise being of a limited character kept out the bulk of the common men. There was not much of attempt on the part of the candidates to enlighten the electorates as to their rights and obligations. From 1924, the election of the Board began to be held in every three years till 1933 when the life of the Board was extended to five years. The District Board was, no doubt, a training ground for many of the later leaders.

Dr. Shri Krishna Sinha, the present Chief Minister of Bihar was one of the non-official Chairmen of the Board in 1934-1937.

The last Board was constituted on the 30th November, 1947 with 31 elected and nine nominated members. The Bihar Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1950 tried to improve the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1924-25. Section 7 of the previous Act (Bihar Act III of 1855) was substituted in the Bihar Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act of 1950. The substituted section runs as follows:—

"7. (1) The State Government shall by notification fix—

(a) The total number of members constituting a District Board not exceeding 50 in number.

- (b) Such number of members as may be elected :
- (c) Such number of members of the scheduled castes, but in any case not less than three in number, as there are Local Boards within the district to be co-opted by the elected members of such Board in such manner as may be prescribed

Provided that at least one member shall be co-opted from the area over which each of the Local Boards has authority

- (2) Subject to the provisions of section II, the members to be elected under this section shall be elected on the basis of adult suffrage

As per this amendment the strength was raised to 46 elected including four co-opted members. Although this amendment was done and the principle of election to be held on the basis of adult franchise was recognised, no election was held and the same Board of 30th November, 1947 was allowed to continue

The constitution of the District Board and Local Boards in Bihar received a set back by the ordinance no VI of 1958 promulgated by the Governor of Bihar. This Ordinance was promulgated under clause (1) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India. By notification no 8001-L S G, dated the 12th September, 1958, it was proclaimed that "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (1) of section 2 of the Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958 (Bihar Ordinance no VI of 1958), the Governor of Bihar is pleased to direct that all the members of the District Boards and Local Boards including the Chairman and Vice Chairman of such Boards constituted under the Bihar and Orissa Local Self Government Act of 1885 (Ben Act III of 1885) shall vacate their respective offices with effect from the 15th September, 1958". In pursuance of this ordinance 16 District Boards including Monghyr District Board with their respective Local Boards were taken over by the Government. The reasons for this step are given in the Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Bill, 1958 as follows —

"The District Boards and Local Boards constituted under the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self Government Act of 1885, have outlived their utility under the completely changed circumstances. On attainment of independence, there have been development on a very large scale in the various field activities, viz, Agriculture, Industry, Co-operation, *Gram Panchayats*, etc. These developments call for a complete re-orientation in the conception and constitution of District Boards and Local Boards so that these bodies could fulfil their role effectively in the changed circumstances. This is not possible unless the existing

law is carefully examined in the light of these developments and amended suitably to meet the present need of the society

The Balvantrai Mehta Committee of the Community Development and National Extension Service have made a number of recommendations specially with regard to future set up of District Boards. These recommendations require detailed examination and careful consideration before the State Government could come to a definite decision in the matter, which will obviously take some considerable time. Besides some of the sister States in India are considering legislation regarding the constitution and powers of these local bodies and it is necessary to examine the provisions of these laws and their actual working for some time before we embark on a comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self Government Act.

"It is, therefore, clear that the new set up of District Boards undoubtedly require comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self Government Act, 1885. It was accordingly decided by the State Government to take over temporarily for three years, the control and management of District Boards pending consideration of their future set up. The Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958 have been promulgated to give effect to these decisions.

The Bill seeks to convert an ordinance into an Act of the State Legislature as the ordinance will cease to have effect after six weeks from the commencement of the present session of the State Legislature."

In this way the control and management of Monghyr District Board was taken over by the State from the 15th of September, 1958. A Special Officer has been appointed by the Government to carry on the administration of the District Board of Monghyr. In 1957-58 the total area of the Board was 3,927 square miles with a population of 28,50,856.

The duties and powers of the District Board are very wide and touch almost all the aspects of life in the district. The Board has to maintain roads and bridges, dispensaries and schools. The management of the ferries has also been entrusted to the District Board and is allowed to retain the income derived from the lease of such ferries.

* This ordinance has now been enacted

Finance.

The main source of the income of the District Board is the road cess, originally payable by the landlords under the Cess Act at the rate of two annas for every rupee of the land revenue. The road cess used to be paid along with the land revenue and then the road cess was transferred to the Board's funds in the Government treasury after the deduction of the cost of realisation. After the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 the Government stepped into the shoes of the ex-landlords and so the road cess is now paid by the Government. The average annual income from the cess comes to about Rs 8,64,188. The other sources of income of the Board are pounds and ferries. It maintains 86 pounds and 30 *ghats*. The average income from ferries in the quinquennium 1954-55 to 1958-59 was Rs 1,04,917.

The annual average revenue from cart taxes (1954-1957) comes to Rs 21,961 and that from Board's property and other miscellaneous items amounts to Rs 69,669. The Government grant on average amounts to Rs 3,76,184 per annum. The total income of the Board in 1956-57 was Rs 14,48,670 as against Rs 2,61,000 in 1901-02. Government grants under different heads, particularly towards education, medical, miscellaneous and civil works, have increased tremendously.

Expenditure

The main items of expenditure are education, medical and public health, veterinary and civil works. The average annual expenditure from District Fund under these heads (on the basis of 1954-57 figures) is Rs 7,20,404. The expenditure under general establishment, provident fund and printing comes to Rs 1,57,081. Miscellaneous expenditure amounts to Rs 26,132 making a total overall expenditure of Rs 16,12,153. The deficit is usually met from loan and debt heads.

Education

The expenditure over education by Board has come down because the State Government are now financing the schemes including the normal schemes and the Board's contribution is only Rs 4,04,291 out of the annual expenditure of Rs 21,33,962. This branch is now administered by an officer of Government designated as District Superintendent of Education. There is a Planning Committee consisting of 11 members with District Magistrate as the *ex officio* President. Only the District Inspector of Schools and the District Superintendent of Education, besides the District Magistrate are Government officers and the rest are public representatives nominated by the Government.

During 1907-08 the Board had nine middle schools, 59 upper primary schools and 778 lower primary schools besides giving grants

or aids to other similar institutions. On the constitution of the Board in 1947-48 the number of middle, upper primary and lower primary schools came to 99,415 and 1,161 respectively. In 1953-54 the District Education Fund was separated and was placed in the hands of the District Superintendent of Education, consequently the Board ceased to have any control over the educational purse.

Public Health.

To prevent and combat epidemics the Board maintains a staff headed by the District Medical Officer of Health. The Officer is a Government servant and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Board. There are also four Assistant Health Officers, one at each subdivisional headquarters, nine Sanitary Inspectors, one for every three *thanas*, 27 Health Inspectors, one for every *thana* and 100 vaccinators, one for every 3,000 population under a District Inspector of Vaccination. Sanitation and other arrangements for the convenience of the pilgrims at the *melas* are also made by the Board. The Board also maintains about 1,014 wells to provide drinking water in the rural areas. The Board maintains 21 allopathic dispensaries, five *ayurvedic*, one *unani*, one homeopathic and 12 veterinary dispensaries.

Civil Works.

The Board maintains at present (1958-59) 87.12 miles of metalled roads, 1,110.51 miles of *katcha* roads and 160.30 miles of village roads. The details of the roads have been given in the Chapter on "Communications". It also maintains 35 inspection bungalows and one dak bungalow.

The statement below shows the Board's income and expenditure from the year 1941-42 to 1956-57 —

Year	Total Revenue (in Rs.)	Total expenditure (in Rs.)	Expenditure on education (in Rs.)	Expenditure on Medical (in Rs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1941-42	10,56,900	9,65,560	3,42,122	1,25,010	
1942-43	9,17,446	9,70,884	3,53,903	1,40,517	
1943-44	1,49,282	10,42,442	4,29,075	1,27,989	
1944-45	11,39,403	12,61,368	4,44,452	1,61,249	
1945-46	17,28,502	15,11,809	5,48,070	1,73,538	Cess rate doubled
1946-47	17,46,087	17,97,665	6,76,818	1,68,194	

Year.	Total Revenue (in Rs)	Total Expendi- ture (in Rs)	Expendi- ture on education (in Rs)	Expendi- ture on Medical (in Rs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1947-48	22,74,245	21,18,257	10,73,109	2,02,829	Government sanc- tioned subsidy for Board's employees including teachers
1948-49	24,41,480	22,82,043	11,16,826	1,87,750	
1949-50	33,84,528	26,38,461	14,08,311	2,11,290	
1950-51	33,05,979	30,27,501	14,91,124	2,40,921	
1951-52	37,23,903	37,92,151	16,64,382	2,68,251	Education Fund was separated
1952-53	43,21,419	46,52,784	18,64,753	2,77,780	
1953-54	43,10,586	38,45,988	19,50,482	3,01,473	
1954-55	17,72,034	18,31,969	1,54,089	2,00,340	
1955-56	13,90,142	15,72,294	2,31,657	2,40,661	
1956-57	14,48,670	14,32,196	1,15,510	2,60,133*	

So far as the total revenue of the Board is concerned, it is seen that in the year 1941-42 the amount was Rs 10,56,900 which went on increasing until it was approximately four times more in the year 1952-53, with an amount of Rs 43,21,419. This improvement on revenue is due to certain important administrative changes which were made to bring in rapid and radical social advancement by entrusting to the Board more and more rights and responsibilities. In the year 1945-46, cess rate, the most important item of revenue, was doubled resulting in the revenue becoming nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times more, Rs 10,56,900 in 1941-42 became Rs 17,28,502 in 1945-46. In 1947-48, the income is more than double because of Government's sanctioning subsidies for Board's employees including teachers. Again in 1949-50 Government sanctioned improvement grants for the improvement of education pushing the revenue by more than three times, in comparison to that of 1941-42. This drastic reduction in the revenue of the Board from 1953-54 was mainly due to the separation of the Education Fund from the Board.

The incidence of expenditure on education is seen going up. If we take the year 1941-42 as the base year, the expenditure on education is 60 per cent more in the year 1945-46, 300 per cent more in the year 1947-48, 400 per cent more in the year 1949-50 and somewhat 600 per cent more in the year 1953-54. Apart from education the Board had spent a large amount on the development works such as roads and buildings. The expenditure of Board on public health was almost more than double in 1956-57 from 1941-42.

* For later figures see Appendix.

Local Boards.

There are four Local Boards under the District Board and they are at the subdivisional headquarters, viz., Sadar, Jamui, Khagaria and Begusarai. The Local Boards at Monghyr, Jamui and Begusarai were formed in 1887. The fourth at Khagaria was established in 1948. The strength of these Boards consists of both elected and co-opted members. Monghyr Local Board has 13 members (10 elected and three nominated), Begusarai has 12 members (nine elected and three nominated), Jamui and Khagaria has both eight members (six elected and two nominated). But amendment had been made which provides for 15 members each in Monghyr and Begusarai and 10 each in Jamui and Khagaria.

The Local Boards get allotment of funds from the District Board and have in their charge maintenance of village roads, upkeep of pounds, water supply and village sanitation. The powers of the Local Boards have been much reduced due to the creation of the District Education Fund under the Superintendent of Education. With the passing of the District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Act, 1958 these Local Boards have been taken over by the Government.

Union Committees

There were under the District Board eight Union Committees at Jamui, Khagaria, Lakhisarai, Barahiya, Haveli, Khargpur, Gogri, Begusarai and Jhajha. The first four have been converted into Notified Area Committees under the Municipal Act. The strength of members in the remaining four Union Committees is 9, 8, 7 and 9 respectively. These Committees look after sanitation.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES

The functions and responsibilities of the Notified Area Committees are mostly the same as of the municipalities. These Committees have recently been constituted and have not made much headway.

Lakhisarai Notified Area Committee

As mentioned before Lakhisarai had a Union Board but owing to the growing township the Union Board was found unsuitable to cope with the problems and so the Board was converted into a Notified Area Committee, in 1955. The Committee has 12 members. It has an annual expenditure of Rs. 8,743.

Begusarai Notified Area Committee

The Begusarai Notified Area Committee was constituted in 1950. It has a Committee of 12 members.

Barahiya Notified Area Committee

It was constituted in 1953. The Committee has 12 members.

Khagaria Notified Area Committee

The Khagaria Union Board was converted into the Notified Area Committee in 1950. It has 12 members.

The Sheikhpura Union Board has also been converted into the Notified Area Committee in 1958.

GRAM PANCHAYATS

The institution of the local self government in the shape of village assembly, where the local problems and the needs for the sanitation, communication, judiciary, and the police were served was an old institution of the land. Village administration was more or less entrusted to the village headmen, commonly known as *Gopa* in the Hindu period and *Muquaddam* in the Muslim period. But this fulfilled institution fell into abeyance amidst disorder and confusion that followed in the wake of the early British rule in the country. In 1920 the Village Administration Act was passed to revive the old institution of the village assembly but it had not made much headway.

With the advent of the independence in 1947, however, a very important step has been taken to extend the benefits of the local self government right to the village under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947. The Act was put into operation in Monghyr from 1949. Under this Act village *panchayats* were established for a village or group of villages. Generally a *panchayat* is formed in an area which has a total population of 2,000 persons. Normally a number of villages falling within the radius of two miles are grouped together under one *panchayat*. The *Gram Panchayat* is headed by a *Mukhia* who is assisted by an executive committee consisting 13 to 15 members elected on the basis of adult franchise. The executive committee controls the annual budget and acts as a check on the *Mukhia*. The *Mukhia's* post has become a coveted one in the village and it seldom goes uncontested.

There is a panel of 15 *panches* or members which has a head known as the *Sarpanch*. The chief job of the *Sarpanch* is to preside over the *Gram Cutchery* meetings and to try cases with the help of two *panches* who are selected by parties. Thus the *Sarpanch* is the judiciary head and the *Mukhia* executive head of the *Gram Panchayat*.

Section 77 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, provides that for every *Gram Panchayat* the Government may appoint a *Gram Sewak* who shall be in charge of the office of the *Gram Panchayat* and be responsible for drawing out the plans of the schemes and the work to be executed. For this the *Gram Sewaks* get a short training. Out of nearly 604 *Gram Sewaks* in 1958-59 in the district 522 are trained.

Section 26 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act provides for the organisation of the Village Voluntary Forces in each village under

the command of the Chief Officer. A number of Chief Officers have been trained in the different training centres. All able-bodied males of the village between the age-group of 18 to 30 are to be the members of the forces. In any emergency the Village Voluntary Forces are to protect the village from dacoits, fire, epidemics, etc. Uptil now (1958-59) 3,147 members of the Village Voluntary Forces have been trained in this district under the guidance of the Chief Officers.

The statement below shows the number of *Gram Panchayats* scattered all through the district in 1957-58 :—

Village covered	..	..	3,706
Population covered	..	..	23,14,107
No. of unofficial <i>panchayats</i> formed	..	..	159
No. of <i>panchayats</i> recommended for notification.			159

Financial Resources.

The *Gram Panchayats* have been empowered to raise taxes such as property-tax and professional tax. The professional tax is levied on any kind of business conducted within the jurisdiction of the *Gram Panchayat*. There is compulsory labour-tax payable by all able-bodied males between the age-group of 18–50. The minimum tax payable by every tax-payer is 12 units for 48 hours of manual labour per annum. Cash payment in lieu of labour-tax is permissible in case of invalids or for those who are incapable for manual labour. The proceeds of the tax are mainly utilised for the village uplift.

The other source of income of the *Gram Panchayat* is the grant sanctioned by the Government. An initial grant of Rs. 50 to each *Gram Panchayat* had been sanctioned by the Government. A sum of Rs. 16,350 has been distributed to 327 *Gram Panchayats* till 1957-58. Seventeen *Gram Panchayats* have been empowered to collect rent on commission basis.

Sanitation and Public Health.

Sanitation, public health and first aid are the obligatory duties of *Gram Panchayats*. Cleaning of village paths, lanes and public places has been made regular periodical feature once a week on every Sunday. A large number of bore-hole, trench and other latrines as well as soakage pits have been constructed to improve the sanitation and prepare manure from the compost and night soil. Besides disinfection of wells, inoculations and vaccinations are done by the *Gram Sewaks*.

Economic Development Work.

Economic development programmes conducive to village uplift and prosperity had been assigned to *Gram Panchayats*. Half of the expenses in all such works are met by the State Government. The

Gram Panchayats have been engaged in constructing and repairing of embankments and bunds, sinking of wells and the construction and repair of the village roads. A number of such schemes have been executed by the *Gram Panchayats*. A statement of such schemes is given below.—

Year	Number of schemes	Total estimated cost including 50 per cent contribution of the <i>panchayats</i>	Government grant sanctioned
		Rs	Rs
1954 55	148	2,19,188	1 09 594
1955 56	124	1,19,596	59 798
1956 57	132	1,21,208	53 114

Embankment

In the district of Monghyr 46 miles of embankment work on the Rosera Nima and the Rosera Pari Hara embankments were allotted to 48 *Mukhtas* of the *Gram Panchayats* of the Begusarai subdivision. The work was taken up in right earnest by the *Mukhtas* and had been completed.

Education

Night schools and libraries have been organized in villages by the *panchayats* to drive out mass illiteracy. Books of general knowledge, agriculture, sanitation and village improvement have been provided in libraries. The details showing the number of persons benefited, night schools opened and number of schools of which managements have been transferred to the *panchayats* have been shown in the statement below —

Year	Adult education centre	Number of persons benefited	Basic schools	Other schools H E / M E / U P / L P	Number of libraries run by <i>Gram Panchayats</i>
1951 52	4,233		20	21	31
1952 53	60	1,610	3	20	60
1953 54	132	4,907	8	50	88
1954 55	144	10,386	40	34	50
1955 56	432	8,632	40	32	50
1956-57	671	17,879	8	10	109

Administration of Justice

Administration of justice is done in the *Gram Cutchery*. The *Gram Panchayat's* first duty is to bring about a compromise. Failing, the *Gram Cutchery* will take up the trial and is expected to be a forum for dispensing justice in a cheap, quick and efficient manner. It is expected the witness deposing before their own kith and kin who are probably aware of the facts of the cases would seldom dare to concoct the real facts. But in administration of justice the *Gram Panchayats* have not made much headway. The following statement shows the number of cases tried by *panchayats* —

Year	Filed	Compromised	Convicted	Dismissed	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6
1951-52	670	543	64	Nil	70
1952-53	1,107	1,034	47	Nil	26
1953-54	1,847	1,302	108	173	174
1954-55	1,594	1,027	178	121	268
1955-56	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
1956-57	6,217	4,504	287	842	569

The *Gram Panchayats* have yet to develop on healthy lines. It is a very revolutionary step in the history of the country that the *Gram Panchayats* have been sought to be made a powerful body to whom gradually more and more powers will be given. The experiment is in absolute contrast to the olden days of the bureaucratic rule where the police constable and the village *chowkidar* were the invariable links with the administration above and the villagers naturally took the administration to be an alien one.

CHAPTER XIV.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

Not much evidence is to be found in contemporary or later historical or literary works to denote the type and extent of educational institutions prevalent during ancient and mediæval Monghyr. As elsewhere, education in the Hindu period especially after the advent of great Shankracharya was more or less in the hands of religious institutions and the men associated with them. Enlightened Brahmins and priests who were custodians of monasteries, *maths* and temples were charged with the duty of imparting education. Hiuen Tsiang in the seventh century A. D. had visited parts of Monghyr and mentions that the "manners of the people are simple and honest. There are ten Buddhist monasteries with about 4,000 priests, and a few Brahmanical temples occupied by various sectaries". On the basis of this it can be presumed that the incidence of education in the hands of Buddhist priests and the Brahmins of the temples must be high.

It does not appear that there was any regular system of education in the ancient or mediæval Monghyr sponsored by the State, although the State did give patronage to learned persons and institutions of learning. The *gurus* or *pandits* for the Hindus and the *fakirs* and the *maulvis* for the Muslims used to teach at their own place or residence. Usually they were of a superior learning and seekers after knowledge used to come to their house, enjoy free board and lodge and be taught. Such men were usually supported by the itinerant gifts of the State dignitaries and zamindars. *Pathshalas* and *maktabs* used to be normally attached to temples and mosques, as the case may be and were charged with imparting primary and a somewhat higher standard of education. The mosques and *khankahs* were liberally endowed with by the kings and their grantees. During middle ages Bihar became the preaching ground of the *Sufi* saints and there is proof that Shah Maula of Maulanagar in Monghyr district and his brother-in-law Ghulam Maula had great influence beyond the limits of Bihar. In village Lakhisarai there is a mausoleum of the famous saint Makhdum Shah who was famous for his learning. Nearby Monghyr fort there is a tomb of Mulla Muhammad Sayyad Ashraf, a poet and the preceptor of the princess Zebunnissa. It is understood that Mulla Muhammad Sayyad Ashraf attracted disciples from beyond the limits of Monghyr.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, however, it appears that general education had not made much headway. From the account of Francis Buchanan who surveyed this part of the country in 1810-11 it appears that the incidence of education in Monghyr was not very encouraging. The education of the zamindars and the

other landholders had been rather neglected. The Arabic and Persian literatures were encouraged by some enlightened Muhammadans. "In Shuryagarha" Buchanan had mentioned "two brothers, Golam Mortuja and Golam Hosyn, who have a large free estate, have endowed a *mudursah*, and employ a Maulvi to instruct youth in Arabic and Persian literature. The two men affect an uncommon sanctity of manners, and avoid strangers; nor do I know what proficiency the person employed by them has made in his studies.

"Muhammad Hayat, of Bhajuya, near Gogri has an endowment, and instructs seven youths in Arabic, Persian and the *Koran*. He as usual takes no fee, and gives food to such of his pupils as choose to avail themselves of his liberality. He is *Kazi* for an extensive district, and has hired an assistant to enable him to instruct the youth. It was alleged that his knowledge of Arabic, is not profound, and that an interpretation of an inscription, with which he favoured me, was not accurate."

The reaching of the Hindu sciences, viz., grammar, law and metaphysics was not much encouraged. Francis Buchanan offered warm tribute to an astronomer of Monghyr as he had said "One Gauridatta Pathak of Mungger, the most sensible man that I have been able to find in that vicinity as an assistant, constructs almanacks". The *Ramayan* of saint Tulsidas was widely read than understood. "I am told" he said "that of sixteen people who read it, two may understand it completely, four may understand a great many words, but are ignorant of so many, that they do not know the meaning of any one sentence. Among the Brahmans and higher classes are some who understand the meaning, although they cannot read any character. This is the case with all the women, who understand the poetical knowledge; for none of the female sex have been instructed to read. The other books in the poetical language that are in most common use, are Harishchandra Lila, giving an account of a Raja named Harishchandra, the Bhagwat of Lalach Halwai, mentioned in my account of Puraniya; and the Rasvihar, also mentioned in some account. These three are more easily understood than the Tulsi Dasi, and even the vulgar understand a considerable part of Harishchandra Lila."

The Record Room of the Commissioner, Bhagalpur Division contained more than a hundred official English correspondence volumes that have been recently removed to the Central Archives of Bihar at Patna. Some of these letters throw light on the system of vernacular education that was set on foot by the Government of Bengal in the forties of the last century. They chiefly deal with the primary vernacular education that was then prevalent in the districts of the Revenue Division, Bhagalpur, which at that time comprised Bhagalpur, Dinajpur, Malda, Monghyr, Purnea and Tirhoot. Dr. K. K. Basu of Bhagalpur has made some research into the history

giving grants-in-aid to schools, there were 229 schools in the district attended by 6,675 pupils. By 1881-82 the number of schools had risen to 2,755 and of pupils to 30,403; but there was a falling off in the next decade, the number of schools in 1890-91 being 1,497 and pupils 25,536. The year 1898 witnessed the opening of the Diamond Jubilee College (present R. D. and D. G. College). The next ten years witnessed an improvement, the returns for 1899-1900 showing 1,608 schools with an attendance of 32,737, but next year, largely owing to the outbreak of plague, the number of schools decreased to 1,301 and of scholars 25,738. The total number of institutions in 1909-10 rose to 1,413 with 36,708 pupils, in 1914-15 being 1,619 schools with 43,306 pupils, in 1919-20, the number of schools was 1,813 with 53,385 pupils and in 1924-25 it rose to 1,988 schools with 62,393 pupils.

The general educational progress of the district for the last 25 years has been steady. It marked an all-round improvement in the number of institutions and enrolment in recognised institutions for boys and girls in the district. Statement I at the end of the chapter will give figures for institutions and scholars. The statistics show that the number of schools for general education both primary and secondary and the number of scholars in them have been slowly but steadily rising till 1951-52.

After 1951-52 the development schemes for the expansion and improvement in the State were drawn up and most of them were sanctioned. With the advent of the Five-Year Plans the execution of the schemes were accelerated as substantial financial aid was available to the State from the Centre for the development schemes. The success of the schemes was also due to the educational consciousness of the masses after attainment of Independence. At the close of the year 1956-57 the number of schools for general education stood at 3,174 with a total enrolment of 2,01,649. The growth in the number of professional and special schools also showed remarkable progress and their number at the close of 1956-57 stood at 444 with an enrolment of 14,026. The special schools which constitute of Sanskrit *tois* and *madrasas* did not attract many students since the teaching in them was of unilateral character and their products have restricted avenues for employment. To make such oriental schools more diversified the State had launched a scheme of opening of Sanskrit high schools and one such State-managed school had been established in Monghyr proper.

GROWTH OF LITERACY.

The census figures of 1901 show the percentage of literate males and females as 5.8 and 0.2 respectively; in 1911 these figures were 7.7 and 0.4 respectively; in 1921 they stood at 9.4 and 0.6 respectively and in the year 1951 to 18.5 and 4.3 respectively. The total number of literate males and females during the year

1951 were 2,65,418 and 60,817 as against a population of 14,34,824 males and 14,14,303 females. The following statement gives the number of literates and of persons who have passed any institutional examination, academic, vocational or technical —

Educational standard	Persons	Males	Females
Literate	3 26,235	2 65 418	60 817
Middle schools	29,560	25,289	4 271
Matriculate	12,071	10,166	1,905
Intermediate	3,033	2 780	253
Degrees or Diplomas—			
Graduate	1,460	1,279	181
Post Graduate	306	289	17
Teaching	522	464	58
Engineering	49	49	
Commerce	47	47	
Agriculture	39	39	
Veterinary	16	16	
Legal	146	146	
Medical	382	346	36
Others	366	361	5
Total	3,74,232	3,06,689	67,543

From the statistics it is apparent that in the technical branches of education, like Engineering, Law, Commerce, Agriculture and Veterinary women seem to take no interest. The chief avocation for educated women appears to be that of teachers and doctors.

COMPARISON WITH THE STATE

The educational facilities available in the country as a whole in 1951 provided for 40 per cent of the children in the age-group 6—11 10 per cent in the age group 11—17. In Bihar, however, the percent age of pupils at school at the age group 6—11 was 27.3 per cent of age group 11—14 11.5 per cent and of the age group 14—17 5.6 per cent. In Monghyr the number of children of the age group 6—11 reading in primary stage comes to about 36.1 per cent. At the end of 1955-56 it was estimated that Monghyr district would have an estimated population of nearly 29,87,958. Calculating at the rate of 12.5 per cent and 6.66 per cent of this total population the number of school-going children of the age group 6—11 and 11—14 in the district will be about 3,73,493 and 1,99,197 respectively.

Education of the girls was previously confined to primary stage due to want of facilities afforded to them at their native places. In

1931-32 there was only one middle school for girls in the district with an enrolment of 64 girls. In 1941-42 the number of such middle schools rose to four and one high school at the district headquarters was opened. The table below gives the comparative figures of institutions for girls and their enrolment during the years 1951-52 and 1956-57 —

Year	High schools		Middle schools (including senior basic schools)		Primary schools	
	Schools	Scholars	Schools	Scholars	Schools	Scholars
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1951-52	3	579	7	1,012	183	8 860
1956-57	4	797	11	1,159	222	10 529

The above figures do not include those of girls reading in schools for boys. Their number in boys' schools is also considerable. Co-education is coming more into vogue. Out of the abovementioned institutions two high schools, four middle schools including one senior basic school for girls are State managed.

The total expenditure over girls' education amounted to Rs 1,98,501 in 1951-52 and Rs 2,72,101 in 1956-57.

In matters of opening of new middle and primary schools under the Five Year Plan periods it has been decided that 25 per cent of the units sanctioned in a particular year must be reserved for opening girls' schools or improvement of present girls' schools. To promote girls' education the Education Department has also made provisions for the award of special scholarships and stipends to poor and meritorious girls (besides other scholarships) reading in recognised schools.

EDUCATION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER BACKWARD COMMUNITY

The following table gives data in connection with the progress of special schools for these classes of students —

Year	Number of schools		Enrolment		Total expendi- ture
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Schools for Scheduled Castes</i>					<i>Rs</i>
1947-48	12		366	16	3 016
1951-52	13	.	505	57	5,032
1956-57	37		1,168	240	16 649

Year	Number of schools		Enrolment		Total expenditure
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Schools for Scheduled Tribes</i>					Rs
1947 48	75	.	1,476	53	15,453
1951 52	73	..	2,100	117	34,500
1956 57	73		2,098	130	34,119
<i>Schools for Backward Muslims</i>					
1947 48					
1951 52	26	4	836	181	8,945
1956 57	26	3	774	260	13,511

There is no special school for Backward Hindu Community. Besides the above enrolment the number of students in general schools numbered 11,088 including 149 girls in 1956 57. Students belonging to the above classes and to Backward Hindu Communities are awarded special scholarships and book grants from the Welfare Department. The number of awards and the amounts awarded are given below —

Class of students	Number of awards		Expenditure		Total awards and expenditure	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs	Rs		Rs
	(1951 52)					
Scheduled Castes	Stipends	497	162		659	38,556
	Book grants					
Scheduled Tribes	Stipends	11	..	..	11	1,456
	Book grants					
Backward Muslims	Stipends	124	7		131	9,204
	Book grants					
Other Backward Communities	Stipends	9			9	882
	Book grants					

Class of students	Number of award		Expenditure		Total awards and expenditure	
	Boys	Girls	Boys.	Girls		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs	Rs		Rs
(1956-57)						
Scheduled Castes	Stipends	112	367	84,318	16 77s	479 1,01,036
	Book grants	261		2,610		261 2 610
Scheduled Tribes	Stipends	85	9	6,376	567	94 6 943
	Book grants					..
Backward Muslims	Stipends	240	58	15,531	1,602	298 17,133
	Book grants	53	..	522		53 0-2
Backward Hindus	Stipends	271	71	43,880	10 234	342 54 414
	Book grants					.

There are also general scholarships for which selected pupils of middle and primary schools compete. There are 54 scholarships awarded by the District Board for boys and girls termed as lower primary scholarship valued at Rs 3 per month tenable for two years. Formerly Government sanctioned 14 upper primary scholarships valued at Rs 4 per month in the district. Since 1956 the number had been increased to 29 and the value to Rs 10 per month, these are tenable for two years. Similarly the Government had increased the number of middle scholarships from 11 to 22 and had increased the value from Rs 12 to Rs 15 per month.

Besides there are merit *cum* poverty scholarships numbering 168 for reading in VI to XI class at the rate of Rs 10 for middle school and Rs 15 for high school.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Primary Education

Formerly primary schools were mainly 'stipendiary' schools but as time passed on it was felt that the effective way of increasing efficiency of these schools, was to bring them under the direct management of local bodies. The following gives the number of such schools managed by local bodies during the years 1941-42,

1951-52 and 1956-57. (No figures are available for 1931-32 as the records were reported destroyed during the 1934 Earthquake)

Year	Number of schools under direct management of local bodies			State managed			Grand Total
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1941-42	299	17	316				316
1951-52	866	43	909	13*	1*	14	923
1956-57	1 137	61	1 198				1,198

The above figures go to show that the price of bringing primary schools under the management of local bodies for the sake of efficiency was much quickened during the last decade. The total number of schools including the State and local bodies in 1931-32 was 1,426 for boys and 179 for girls, in 1941-42, 1,542 for boys and 189 for girls, in 1951-52, 1,742 for boys and 183 for girls and in 1956-57 there were 2,160 boys' schools and 222 girls' schools. The number of pupils in 1931-32 were 46,972 boys and 4,260 girls, in 1941-42, 60,217 boys and 5,836 girls, in 1951-52, 96,828 boys and 7,906 girls and in 1956-57 there were 1,09,146 boys and 27,914 girls.

During the First Five Year Plan there had been great improvement in the primary education. The number of primary schools had increased considerably, upgrading of lower primary schools into upper primary schools had been effected in sufficient numbers, funds had been sanctioned for the construction of new buildings and renovation of existing ones. The scale of salary of teachers had been considerably upgraded.

The scheme of appointment of lady teachers in primary schools was sanctioned and qualified ladies had been appointed in primary schools.

According to the announcement of the State Government in 1949, education up to primary stage was made free throughout the State. To compensate the loss of fee income the scale of pay of teachers was revised and higher scales were fixed.

Compulsory Primary Education had been introduced in the Monghyr Municipality since 1939. The percentage of boys attending

* There were junior basic schools now converted into senior basic schools

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	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs	Rs		Rs
(1956-57)						
Scheduled Castes	Stipends	119	367	84 318	16 778	479 1 01 036
	Book grants	261		2 610		261 2 610
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	Book grants					
Backward Muslims	Stipends	240	58	15 531	1 669	298 17 183
	Book grants	53	.	522		53 522
Backward Hindus	Stipends	271	71	43 880	10 334	341 54 414
	Book grants					.

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* There were junior basic schools now converted into senior basic schools.

school in the municipal area as compared to the children of school going age comes to about 93 per cent. To ensure proper attendance and enrolment Attendance Officers have been appointed. The figure of 93 per cent probably errs on the side of exaggeration and inflation of figures.

There had been a corresponding increase in the number of teachers. In the year 1956-57 there were 3,886 teachers as against 3,503 in 1951-52, 2,648 in 1941-42 respectively. Untrained teachers are gradually replaced by trained ones and the department sanction appropriate funds for the increase in expenditure on this account. The scheme of Short Term Training Course had also been introduced so that untrained teachers of middle and primary schools serving for 7 years or more may avail of the opportunity and get themselves trained. This course has a duration of five months and is held in the only Senior Training School at Haveli Kharagpur once in a session and 50 teachers are deputed. While undergoing training these teachers get their full pay and allowances and the extra cost involved on appointment of substitutes in their places is borne by the department.

Middle Schools

The growth of middle schools has recorded a steady progress. There were only 37 middle schools in 1924-25. At the end of 1956-57 their number had increased to 258 including 10 middle schools exclusively for girls. The control of middle school was entirely transferred to District Board in 1925 but after the promulgation of the Amending and Validating Local Self Government Act in 1954 the District Superintendent of Education in the district had been made responsible for the control, management and payment to middle and primary schools in Board area in consultation with the Chairman of the District Board*. The control of such schools by local boards of the respective subdivisions thus ceased to exist. A District Education Fund was opened in which the contribution of the District Board and Education Department were pooled together and expenditure incurred. A District Planning Committee was set up with the Collector as President and the District Superintendent of Education as Secretary and members nominated by the Education Department. The Committee was made responsible for the opening of new schools, appointment of teachers and other work relating to the expansion of middle and primary schools in the district.

The number of middle schools mentioned above also include three such schools which are centrally managed, two of them are

* The District Board is now vested in the State Government. There is a Special Officer for the Board who functions as the Board.

located at Jamalpore and one at Jhajha The management of middle schools in 1956 57 stood as follows —

	Boys	Girls
Centre managed	3	.
State managed		3
District Board managed	41	
Municipal managed	3	1
Aided	127	6
Unaided	74	
Unrecognised	4	
Total	252	10

The enrolment in the secondary schools stood at 48 401 boys and 4 141 girls at the close of 1956 57

The teachers employed in these schools numbered 2 265 out of which 944 were trained and 1,321 untrained and the expenditure from all sources on these schools figures at Rs 26,98,450 including Rs 7 80,392 from State Funds at the close of 1956 57

During the Five Year Plan period scope has been provided for the improvement of middle schools (including basic schools), opening of new schools, intensive craft teaching, construction of teachers quarters and renovation of school buildings. Untrained teachers are being replaced by trained teachers and the scale of pay of teachers has been raised

Secondary Education

The number of high schools in 1924 25 was only five. In 1931 32 it rose to 12 for boys only, in 1941-42, 21 for boys and one for girls and in 1951 52 the number increased to 59 for boys and three for girls. There were 85 such schools for boys and four for girls in 1956 57, including two post basic or *Sarvodaya* high schools at Haveli Kharagpur in Sadar subdivision and Lathlath in Jammu subdivision. The figure includes one Centrally managed Railway High School at Jamalpore. During the First Five Year Plan two high schools were selected as multi purpose schools, six high schools were given grants for library and four schools received grants for improved teaching of science. Besides the above specialised grants many schools received subsidies for building construction. In the Second Five Year Plan period it is envisaged to convert two high schools into higher secondary schools besides sanctioning improvement grants to other deserving institution of this category.

Basic Education.

At the beginning of 1950 Government took up the expansion of basic education on a wide scale. Twenty-nine junior basic schools, two post-basic schools (now *Sarvodaya* schools) and one senior training school were opened under the direct management of State Government. Some of the old primary schools were converted into basic schools and some new basic schools were also started. The junior basic schools established in 1950 have all been upgraded to senior basic schools by 1956-57. Encouragement was given and sufficient units were sanctioned by the department for the opening of non-Government basic schools at places where the local public was ready to satisfy the requisite conditions. The following table will show the number of basic institutions at the close of the year 1956-57 :—

Kind of Institutions	Manage- ment.	Number of schools		Roll		Teachers		Direct expenditure	
		Boys.	Girls	Boys	Girls	Male	Fe- male	Boys	Girl-
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
								Rs	Rs
Post-Basic (<i>Sarvodaya</i>)	Govern- ment	2				24		59,657	
Senior Basic	Ditto	28	1	3,124	115	206	8	2,08,616	69,7
Senior Basic	Non- Govern- ment	4		637		26		12,068	
Junior Basic	Govern- ment	.							
Junior Basic		87		6,023		215		88,163	

University Education.

At present there are six degree colleges in the district affiliated to the Bihar University.

R. D. & D. J. College, Monghyr.—This college is one of the oldest and earliest instances of private enterprise in the field of higher education in the State of Bihar. Its establishment dates back to the year 1898. To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria the citizens of Monghyr, at a public meeting, resolved to found a college by the amalgamation of the three local schools then existing (the Zilla School, Kameshwari Prasad Institute and the Victoria Jubilee School). In pursuance of

that resolution a college known as the Diamond Jubilee College was opened at the beginning of the sessions of 1898. Subscriptions were liberally made for the purpose of establishing the college. The annual income from this endowment amounts to about Rs 1,900. The management was entrusted to a local committee, of which the District Magistrate was President. This committee was not the same as the joint committee to which the management of the Zilla School had been made over in 1891, but until 1905 there was an intimate connection between the school and the college, and the latter was largely supported by the diversion of profits made at the former. In 1905 Government resumed the direct management of the school, and the college was placed under the management of a joint committee, which includes the Principal of the college and members of the District and Municipal Boards, both of which bodies make an annual contribution towards its upkeep. Since 1905-06 the college has been shown as under Board management. Previous to that year it was shewn as an institution under private management. In 1899 there were 43 students on the college roll, but a virulent outbreak of plague in Monghyr in 1900-01 scared students away from the place. The running cost of the college during 1906-07 was Rs 6,273. This was met as follows:—from District and Municipal funds Rs 2,150, from fees Rs 702, from endowments and other sources Rs 3,421. The total cost of educating a student during the year was Rs 418, the cost to public funds was Rs 143. During 1906-07 the college received from the Imperial contribution a grant of Rs 3,000 for the equipment of its laboratories. In 1908 there were 16 students on the rolls, viz, 10 in the first year class and six in the second year class.

All this is in great contrast to the present college. The present site of the college covering about 15 acres was acquired in 1920 and the foundation stone of the college building called the Prince of Wales building the main block at present, and of the Johnston Hostel, now housing the Tutorial Block and the Library was laid on the 18th February, 1921 by Lord Sinha of Raipur, the then Governor of Bihar and Orissa*. The building was formally opened on the 6th July, 1925 by Mr J A Hubback, I.C.S., the then Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division. The college has from its earliest stage been aided on a deficit grant basis by the Government.

In 1946 a donation of Rs 1,00,000 was made by the late Ramawati Devi. The donation was made for upgrading the college on the condition that the name of her husband the late Raja Devakinandan Prasad Singh be associated with the name of the college. The letters R D stand for Raja Devakinandan. The college at the beginning was affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the I A standard including Science subjects. The teaching of

* Lord Sinha was the first Indian Governor of a province under the British Rule in India.

science was discontinued in 1909. With the setting up of the Patna University in 1917 the college passed on to it as one of its affiliated colleges and then to the Bihar University in 1952.

From 1946 there was a rapid progress. The school section of the college so far attached to it was dropped and degree classes were started. The college is now affiliated up to the degree standard in all the three faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce with provision for Honours teaching in Hindi, History, Economics, English, Political Science, of Arts and Mathematics in Science and Arts and Honours teaching in Commerce.

There is co education system. The total number of scholars in 1955-56 was 1,948 (boys 1,916 and girls 32), in 1956-57 it was 1,886 (boys 1,813 and girls 73), in 1957-58 it was 1,720 (boys 1,621 and girls 99). Thus there had been slight downward tendency in the strength of the students which was mainly due to the opening of other local degree colleges in the district. The number in girl students had shown increase. The strength of lecturers in the college in 1959 was 60 including the Principal. The huge strength of the students, the small number of teachers, want of hostels and various other causes have not, unfortunately, contributed much to the healthy development of the premier college in the district. There is not much of contact between the students and the teachers beyond the college hours—an unfortunate factor in almost all the large colleges in the State.

The college library contains about ten thousand books. There is no Research Section in the library.

Up to 1956 the college had no hostel building of its own and the boarders were housed in a rented house. But in the year 1957 the construction of a hostel named Shri Zakir Hussain Hostel has been completed in the college compound out of a benevolent donation of Rs. 1,44,000 made by late Shri Muzaffar Hussain formerly inhabitant of Surajgarha, Monghyr and later a resident of Karachi, Pakistan in order to perpetuate the memory of his late lamented father, Shri Zakir Hussain. The hostel is a double storeyed building with a Superintendent's quarters providing an accommodation for 100 boarders. This is, however, a poor compensation.

In connection with the R. D. and D. J. College a brief reference of late Shri Baidyanath Basu who served the college in the trying period from 1898 to 1919 has particularly to be made. He was appointed the Principal in the newly started Vidyasagar College in Calcutta in 1873 by Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He resigned from this institution in 1892. The age restriction for entry into Government service was relaxed in his favour (he was at that time 46 years) and he was appointed a Professor of the Krishnanagar College. As the climate of Krishnanagar did not suit him he was transferred to Monghyr in 1893 as the Headmaster of the Monghyr

Zilla School When the Diamond Jubilee College, Monghyr was started Shri Baidyanath Basu was selected for being the first Principal

National Cadet Corps—With the formation of the 9th Bihar Battalion N C C with headquarters at Monghyr the College N C C Unit has been raised to a Headquarters Coy and its strength of cadets having been raised from 148 to 176 and that of officers from 3 to 5

Ganesh Dutta College, Begusarai—The college was started in 1945. The principal donors were Shri Ram Charitra Singh Ex Minister, Shri B N Sharma of Begusarai and Shri Satya Narain Singh of Muzhaul. The college is associated with the name of Shri Ganesh Dutta Singh who was an Advocate first at Calcutta and then at Patna High Court and was a Minister in Bihar for more than a decade. In the same year it got affiliated up to the Bachelor in Arts to the old Patna University. The college was affiliated up to the Intermediate standard in Commerce in 1947 and in Science in 1955. Now the college has obtained affiliation up to the degree standard in the faculties of Arts Science and Commerce. With the bifurcation of the old Patna University in 1952 the college stands affiliated to the Bihar University. Honours affiliation has also been obtained in Hindi History Political Science and English.

The strength of students in 1959 was 1 865 out of which 14 were girls and the number of lecturers was 55. The college library contains 4 500 books. National Cadet Corps training is imparted to 46 cadets for B Certificate. The college suffers from the same type of defects as in R D and D J College Monghyr. There is poor hostel accommodation and little of a proper tutorial system on the model of the British Universities.

The Jaiswal Archaeological and Historical Society attached to the college has a Museum of statutes coins bronze and clay seals from Nowla Garh a few miles from Begusarai. They are of great antiquarian value because they throw new light on Nowla Garh being a seat of the Pala Empire.

Kosi College, Khagaria—The Kosi College at Khagaria was started in 1947 and was affiliated up to the Intermediate standard in Arts and Commerce in 1948 and up to the degree standard in Arts in 1949.

Kumar Kalika Memorial College, Jamui—The college was started in 1955 and got affiliation in 1956 up to the Intermediate standard in Arts. The affiliation was further extended for Intermediate in Science in 1957. The strength of students in 1959-60 was 523 out of which two were girl students.

Shri Krishna Ramruchi College, Barbigha—The college was started in 1955 and stands affiliated up to the degree standard in Arts. The principal donor of the college is Shri Mahesh Prasad Singh, the present Chairman of the Bihar Khadi Board. The

strength of students in the sessions of 1959-60 was 743 out of which four were girls. The college is associated with the name of the present Chief Minister of Bihar, Dr S. K. Sinha and his late wife.

Kabir Moti Darshan College, Parbatta—The college was established in 1956 and was named after its chief principal donor. It stands affiliated up to Intermediate standard in Arts to the Bihar University.

Apart from them a new college known as the Shramika College has been established in 1958 at Jamalpur. New colleges have been started at Barhuni and Barhiya.*

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Training of Teachers

There were seven elementary training schools in the district in 1921 but three of these were abolished in 1928. Twenty pupil teachers were admitted annually in those schools which were of residential type. In 1919 under the expansion and improvement of elementary training schools the remaining four training schools were merged into two at Monghyr and Sheikhpura respectively and expanded. After the merger North Monghyr had no school and so one such school was opened at Shikhpur in Begusarai subdivision in 1950-51. In the same year the nomenclature of E. T. Schools was changed into junior basic training schools. Thereafter the need of one such training school specially for females was keenly felt and one junior basic training school for females was established at Lakhisarai in the Sidr subdivision. All the four junior training schools are now managed by the State Government. Besides these State managed schools one private training school existed at Ramgunj Sansarpur in Khagaria subdivision since 1937-38. This institution is now in receipt of purchase of equipments from the Education Department and is an aided institution. Since the advent of the Second Five Year Plan the expansion and improvement of training school for teachers had been given top priority. The improvements have been effected according to the present needs and the construction of hostel blocks have been taken up in right earnest. Consequent of the improvements the number of admissions has been increased to 100 in male institutions and 50 in the female institutions. The qualification for admission into junior training schools for males is Matriculation passed except in the case of actual untrained teachers. Harijans and females may be admitted if they are middle passed. It is visualised that in the course of a year or two all these institutions will admit 200 trainees each. The duration of the training course is to be expanded to two years instead of one year.

* A girls college in Monghyr has been started in 1958 through a substantial help from the Balmiki Rajani Memorial Trust. Affiliation up to the Degree standard has been obtained in 1959. The college has purchased a big plot of land and through grants of University Grants Commission and the State Government proposes to have a building soon.

Besides the junior training school there is one senior training school at Haveli Kharagpur, admitting 100 Intermediate passed candidates for training as teachers. The duration of the course is two years.

• It was found that a large number of untrained teachers with seven or more years of service at their credit were already employed in middle and primary schools. The policy of replacing untrained teachers by trained ones had been given effect to and the replacement of these untrained old teachers would have been suicidal for them. Consequently the scheme of Short Term Training Course with a duration of five months had been introduced. Under the scheme 50 untrained teachers are admitted to the Senior Training School Haveli Kharagpur every year. The teachers are admitted and paid their full salary while undergoing training. The extra expenditure involved in filling up their vacancies temporarily is met by the Education Department.

Technical Education

The following institutions are imparting technical education in the district —

Jamalpur Railway Technical Institute—It was founded in the year 1867 as a night school for European and Anglo Indian apprentices. In the year 1876 it got recognition of Government and received Government grants for its proper expansion. It imparted training to apprentices primarily with a view to have them employed in Indian Railways after successful completion of the courses. This institution is now under the direct management of the Central Government. The minimum qualification for admission is a pass in Intermediate examination. Boys admitted are given stipends and services in Indian Railways are normally available for successful trainees. The training of apprentices are of three kinds e.g. special class apprentice, apprentice mechanic and trade apprentices. For the last two categories the minimum qualification for admission as apprentice mechanic is matriculation and lower primary for trade apprentice.

Commercial Schools—There are two such schools giving training in shorthand and typewriting in Monghyr town. One of these is aided by the Education Department and the other is unaided.

Agricultural Training School—There is an Agricultural Training School at Madhepura (Jammu) which was started in 1955. It is a State managed institution which imparts training in Agronomy, Horticulture, Extensionology, Irrigation and Drainage, Plant Protection, Agricultural Engineering and Cottage Industries and Civics. An agricultural farm of 50 acres is attached

to this institution from 1959-60. The minimum qualification for admission in the school is Matriculation passed with mathematics. The total number of trainees in 1959-60 was 91 as against 81 in 1955-56. Up to the session of 1958-59 the course was of one year's duration and after passing from this school the students used to receive six months' higher training in extension work at any of the four Extension Training Centres of Bihar. From 1959 the school has been upgraded and the course of study has been of two years' duration. The successful students are awarded Diploma in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. It will be easy for a successful candidate to get a job in the Blocks or Development schemes.

Poly Technical School Monghyr—The school is situated in Monghyr and imparts education in Arts and Crafts. There is also an Industrial School for girls at Monghyr where needle work, knitting, weaving, tailoring and various other handicrafts are taught.

Ranishumaran Shilpasala Ullao—This institution was started at Ullao in Begusarai subdivision to commemorate the memory of the late Shri Ranishumaran Deva of Ullao. It is run by a trust and caters to the needs of orphans. It imparts training in weaving, tailoring, book binding, fruit gardening and carpentry besides general education up to the middle standard.

Ayodhya Shivkumari Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya Begusarai

This college was established on the 1st August 1946 by late Shri Ayodhya Prasad Singh who apart from donating five *bighas* of land and a sum of rupees fifty thousand allowed a recurring allotment of the thirty per cent of his annual income for the management of the institution. The college is managed by three committees—(a) the Trust Committee headed by the widow of Shri Ayodhya Prasad Singh, (b) the Managing Committee of which the Subdivisional Officer Begusarai is the *ex officio* President, (c) the Advisory Body which includes some authorities on *Ayurveda*.

The session begins in July and the number of students is nearly 100. Examinations are conducted under the Ayurveda Board Examination of Government of Bihar for the Degree of Graduate in *Ayurvedic* medicines and surgery (G. A. M. S.). The college maintains a charitable dispensary.

The college library has about 1,000 volumes of books of Sanskrit language.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Under the category of special schools come those institutions which impart education on oriental language e.g. Sanskrit, *tois* and

madrasas In 1956-57 the district had 28 recognised Sanskrit *cols* and four *madrasas* with 873 and 300 students respectively. The *cols* impart higher education in Sanskrit and the *madrasas* in Persian and Arabic. These institutions impart education on the traditional lines partly unsuited to the needs of modern life. Recently the re-organisation of oriental institutions has been taken up and the Sanskrit high schools have been established with changed course of studies with Sanskrit as the medium course of study.

According to the re-organisation scheme, the Rani Saraswati Sanatan Dharma Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Monghyr which was established in 1866 was taken over by the Government in 1954 and has been converted into Government Sanskrit high school. Apart from Sanskrit the school now teaches all the modern subjects. The total number of students in 1959 was 68 including two girl students. The school library contains about 1,000 volumes of books.

Another important Sanskrit college is the Awadh Bihari Sanskrit College, Rahimpur (Khagaria). This was established in 1946. The college is named after its principal donor Shri Awadh Bihari Singh. It is managed by a Trust Committee. It teaches *Vyakaran*, *Nyaya*, *Sahitya*, *Jyotish*, *Ayurveda* and *Dharmashastra* up to the *Acharya* standard. Seventy-five students get a monthly stipend of Rs. 18 per month.

OTHER SCHOOLS

Baidyanath Girls' High School

This is the premier educational institution for girls in Monghyr district. It was sponsored through the munificence of the Goenka family of Monghyr. The school was later taken over by the Education Department and raised to the status of a higher secondary one. It is housed in a series of fine buildings within a compound wall and in the heart of the town. It has hostel accommodation for some of the teachers and students.

Balika Vidyapith, Monghyr

This is a private institution and prepares girls for the different examinations of some of the National Universities in India and also for the Secondary School Examination Board as private candidates.

Balika Vidyapith, Lakhisarai

This is situated in the Sadar subdivision. It was established in 1947. It is a residential institution where teaching is imparted on the old *Ashram* line. It is run by a Trust Committee which has Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of India as its President. It prepares girls for the different examinations of the National Universities as also for the Secondary School Examination Board as private candidates. It does not admit married girls and one of the conditions of admission of unmarried girls in the institution is that they should not marry till they continue their studies here. The strength of students in 1953 was 135 with 17 teachers.

Notre Dame Academy, Jamalpur

It was established in 1950. It is an institution run by American Roman Catholic Mission. It imparts education according to the syllabus of Senior Cambridge Examination. It has also Kindergarten classes attached to it. In 1959 the number of students for boys was 96 and for girls 81. This Mission maintains a separate Kindergarten section at Monghyr which has 94 boys and 36 girls on the rolls. The two institutions have got fine buildings and are developing fast.

SOCIAL (ADULT) EDUCATION

The mass literacy scheme was launched intensively in the year 1936 and mainly aimed at removing illiteracy amongst the masses. A social education centre is now not a centre where only the 3 Rs are taught but the illiterate masses are given rudimentary knowledge for a better living and occupation.

In 1953-54 the posts of the Social Education Instructors were sanctioned under the scheme under the head 'Relief to Educated Unemployed'. Under the scheme social centres were attached to selected high and middle schools and to private organisations. Social Education Instructors were deputed in the centres to work according to a scheme drawn up by the department. In schools the Instructors had to take up a few periods of theoretical classes in Social Studies and engage the students in practical social activities.

Two Community Centres for females have been sanctioned in the district in the year 1956-57. These are at Lakhisarai Junior Training School in Sadar subdivision and Kanhayachak Senior Basic School for Girls in Khagaria subdivision. A sum of Rs 1 000 for each of the centres has been allotted for purchase of books, musical instruments and equipments for holding literacy and cultural classes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education has been receiving greater attention after the introduction of revised syllabus for secondary schools. Almost all the high schools and a good number of middle schools have made provision for drill and organised games. Most of the high schools have got trained physical instructors in the staff. To achieve better result and organise games and physical education the department had sanctioned the post of a Deputy Superintendent of Physical Education in each district in the Upper Division of the Subordinate Education Service, one of whom has been posted in this district in the year 1956. The officer is in charge of organising games and physical activities in high schools, middle schools and basic schools in the district and pays special attention to the organisation and improvement of *Alharas* and *Iyamsalas* in town and villages which are recognised by the department and get subsidy.

Lately the scheme of holding sports festival had been introduced by the department. Under the scheme the festivals will be held on

subdivisional, district, divisional and on State levels. Selected athletes of the subdivision will take part in the District Sport Festivals, selected athletes of the district will take part in the Divisional Sports Festivals and finally the selected athletes of the Divisional Sports will take part in the State Sports Festival. The selected athletes undergo training and coaching for a week at district, divisional and State levels. The student athletes are paid for their fooding and journey expenses by the department besides other miscellaneous expenditures in connection with holding the sports.

AESTHETIC EDUCATION

There is no special school in the district for teaching music, painting or teaching of other fine arts, although these subjects had been included in the syllabus for Secondary School Examination. Music has been introduced in girls' high schools.

AUDIO VISUAL EDUCATION

In some of the high schools educational films are exhibited by private concerns permitted by the department. The students have to pay a nominal fee for the same.

LIBRARY AND LITERARY SOCIETIES

During 1924-25 there was no sizable public library or literary centre in the district. After 1949 attention had been paid towards the development of village libraries. Under the scheme this district has a District Central Library which has been attached with Sri Krishna Seva Sadan Pustakalaya, Monghyr. It receives recurring and non recurring grants annually from the department. It has also a children's library attached to it which is also subsidised by the department. The district has also a Circulating Library Van supplied by the department and attached to the District Central Library. The recurring and non recurring expenditure in connection with the circulating library scheme is borne by the department and allotments are placed with the Secretary of the District Central Library every year.

As for the village libraries 484 libraries received subsidies to the tune of Rs. 12,750 as recurring grant and Rs. 35,000 as non recurring grant in 1949-50. Later recurring grants were sanctioned and paid to deserving libraries on the recommendation of Subdivisional Library Committees. During the year 1956-57 389 libraries received subsidies out of the recurring grant of Rs. 25,870.

There is also an organisation known as Hindi Sahitya Parishad in the district. It holds annual session and celebrates *Jayantees* of distinguished writers of Hindi literature.

SRI KRISHNA SEVA SADAN

On the eve of the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, the present Chief Minister of Bihar, the people of

the district resolved to found a Sri Krishna Seva Sadan to commemorate the occasion in a proper manner. Accordingly the foundation stone of the Seva Sadan was laid on the 21st October, 1947 by the Governor of Bihar, Sri Jairamdas Daulatram. The *Pustakalaya* was inaugurated by Shree Madhava Shree Hari Aney, the then Governor of Bihar on the 29th March, 1949. After the completion of the building of Sri Krishna Seva Sadan it was inaugurated by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India on the 31st October, 1953. It is housed in a very fine building just outside the Monghyr fort.

The Sri Krishna Seva Sadan has several component sections, namely, the Sri Krishna Seva Sadan Pustakalaya, reading room, charitable dispensary, mobile library, child section, women section, spinning section, fine art centre, gymnasium and the Gandhian literature study centre. The Sri Krishna Seva Sadan Pustakalaya is one of the important libraries in the State. It has a rare collection of manuscripts and valuable books. Sri Raghubar Narain Singh made a donation of his books worth Rs 1,50,000 on the eve of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. Recently Mahesh Kamala Library had been added as a part of the Sri Krishna Seva Sadan which was inaugurated by Dr Zakir Hussain, the Governor of Bihar on the 7th July, 1959. Dr Sri Krishna Sinha, Chief Minister donated about twenty thousand volumes of books to start this wing. The Sri Krishna Seva Sadan is managed by a Board of Trustees.

A C C AND N C C UNITS

These units are becoming very popular in colleges and high schools. All high schools excepting a few have got these units under trained teachers. The cadets have been greatly benefited by their participation in the units which had improved their tone of discipline and added to their mental, moral and physical developments. The cadets are paid for tiffin on parade days and washing charges for their uniforms. The Teacher Officer also gets remuneration at the end of year.

SCOUTING AND GIRL GUIDES

Till 1942 there were two district associations, one under the Scouts Association and the other under the Hindusthan Scouts running separately. In 1950 both the associations amalgamated at a higher level and accordingly they merged in the district also. It is now functioning as the Bharat Scouts and Guides Association. Since 1951 the district association has been holding Scout Master and Patrol Leader Camps to bring home to the children the motto of service to humanity and the country. Besides these the association has been running service camps on important occasions, e.g., *Durga Puja*, *Magh Mela*, *Kartik Purnima*, etc., rendering valuable services in controlling crowd, tracing out lost children and other social

services The need of Scouting in schools cannot be underestimated Almost all the high schools both for boys and girls, have Scout and Girl Guides Troops This organisation has not yet fully developed in all the middle schools but some of them have introduced Scouting with advantage

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Monghyr is centrally situated in the State of Bihar It oscillated several times as we have seen before between the Empire of Delhi, Kingdom of Bengal and States of Sasaram and Jaunpur People of other countries used to come to Monghyr for various reasons The river front encouraged wide export and import The people of the Monghyr district gifted as they are by nature with imagination and receptivity of culture, imbibed from the new comers their best qualities and their distinctive cultural characteristics

Buddha and Buddhistic culture had a great impact on Bihar Unlike the sister provinces of the east, west and the south, Monghyr and for the matter of that Bihar has traces of Buddhistic culture which are noticeable even today The simplicity of the people of Bihar in food, dress and manners, their unostentatiousness, plain living and high thinking are some of the marks of Buddhistic civilisation The bulk of the population and particularly the higher caste people like Brahmins and Bhumiari Brahmins were mostly vegetarians till late and not addicted to drink Monghyr was one of the capitals of Bengal for sometime during Moslem period The influence of Muslim culture in cooking, dress, manners of the *Rais* families, industries, education, etc., are quite apparent The Christian missionaries and the English planters and business men had also left their marks One of the earliest translations of Bible into Hindi was done at Monghyr

The impact of several influences could clearly be seen in the observance of religious festivals From Bengal they have taken the Durga Puja festival in the form in which it is performed at present in Bengal The festival has now become a national festival of Bihar and is performed with great pomp by all nationalities in Monghyr

During the decadence of Buddhism, Tantricism grew up into importance and its influence was spread by the cults of Heenayan, Bajrajana, etc

Monghyr got a fair share of Tantric heritage The Chandisthan temple of Monghyr town is a standing monument of Tantric influence in the district On the banks of the river Ganga about two miles from main town surrounded by natural beauty the temple of Chandi is built on a rock In a subterranean dark cave of the lillock with a stone cauldron shaped roof over which the temple stands one eye is inscribed on the wall, which is worshipped as the representation of Chandi The loneliness of the place, the dark subterranean cave that is adjacent to the cremation ground of the

Hindus (*Mahasmasan*) stretching alongside the Ganga for over a mile till it reaches the first hamlet, the sacrifice of animals as a part of rituals of worship all unerringly indicate a Tantric origin. Formerly there was a small *Vedi* (platform) between two giant banyan or *Aswatha* trees and used to be pointed out to the pilgrim as the seat (*Asana*) of Raja Bhratrighari, brother of Vikramaditya, where he attained his *Tantric Siddhi* (salvation).

An interesting tradition attaches to the Karnachaura house in Monghyr town. It is so called because the highest point of the hill on which it stands is known by the name of Karanchaura, i.e., Karna's seat. These names are accounted for by a legend of Raja Karna, who is said to be different person from the well known hero of the Mahabharat. Karna of Mudgalpuri (an ancient name for Monghyr) was contemporary of Vikrama, and an ardent worshipper of the goddess Chandī Devi. Every day he bestowed one fourth maund of gold on Brahmans, and every night he visited the shrine of the goddess. There he cast himself into a vessel of boiling *ghee* and his flesh was devoured by the *joginees*. Pleased with his devotion, the goddess brought the fleshless skeleton to life by sprinkling water over it, and the resuscitated Karna on rising up found the *ghee* vessel filled with one fourth maund of gold. This he bestowed on the Brahmans and again appearing before the goddess cast himself into the vessel of boiling *ghee*, and was again restored to life by Chandī Devi. At least, the fame of his continued liberality reached Vikrama, who came to Monghyr and became his servant. By close watching, Vikrama discovered the secret of the daily supply of gold, and having one night preceded Karna to the shrine of the goddess, threw himself into the vessel of boiling *ghee*, and being afterwards restored to life cast himself into the vessel a second time and yet third time. His devotion pleased Chandī so much that she told him to ask for a boon, and on his claiming the secret of making gold, she gave him the *paras pathar* or philosopher's stone. When Karna visited the place shortly afterwards both the goddess and the vessel of *ghee* had disappeared. He then began to sell his property to make his customary gift to the Brahmans until at last he had nothing left. When Vikrama asked him the cause of his dejection, Karna told him the whole story, and Vikrama at once gave him the touch stone (*Paras Pathar*). All this indicates influence of Tantricism.

Worship of Kali, the consort of Siva is very common in this district. At Lachuar, a village in Jamui subdivision Maharaja Puran Mall built a *Kalibari* which is held in great reverence by the Hindus. The Maharaja of Darbhanga has constructed a Kali *Mandir* at Kharagpur. On the top of the Kharagpur hills near Jimalpur at a place known as Kali *Pahar*, a Kali *Mandir* had been constructed by a Bengali contractor. The worship of Kali is deep here. There are various other temples of Kali in different parts of this district.

From before Ruplal Jee's efforts to spread the gospel of Ramayana the shrines of Manipthal and Sitakund had been there to indicate the influence of Ramayan cult in Monghyr. The worship of Sri Ramjee is widely prevalent.

Jainism has also had hold in Monghyr. Bihar is the birth place of Mahabir Swami the 24th Jain *Tirthankar*. There are different theories as to the birth place of Mahabir Swami. Some hold it was at Lachuar village in Jamui subdivision. A large section of the Marwari and Agrawala communities follow Jainism. At Lachuar five miles west of Simaria in Jamui there is a large Jamee temple and *Dharmashala* built in 1874 by Sri Dhanpat Singh Bahadur of Mursidabad.

A large number of Hindus are *savants* and in this district the great *saiva* influence is indicated by a very large number of Shiva *Lingas* and temples of Shiva, which are seen all over this district. Raja Sukdeo Singh, son of Bibikum Singh is said to have built at Kakeswar four miles east of Gidhour 108 temples of Shiva and one of Durga. From the history of the family of Gidhour it is evident that the Gidhour Raj family are *savants* and every transaction in this family is done in the name of Shiva and every document of the family bears the stamp of Shiva Sahi with the trident imprinted over it. Near Sheikhupura there is a hill at the top of which there is a temple of Shiva.

The history of Monghyr shows a large and varied contact with Europeans for a long time. There are a number of Churches belonging to different denominations in the town of Monghyr, besides several at Jamalpur. There is a beautiful Roman Catholic Church and educational institutions at Jamalpur. We have got a large Christian community in the district. There is a large number of Indian Christian population in Chakri area where there is a Christian medical mission working at Bamdi since decades.

Some of the festivals deserve some mention as they are landmarks of the great cultural heritage of the district. Another great festival that Bihar seems to have received from Bengal is *Saraswati Puja*. In the district of Monghyr, in the outlying places as Sheikhupura, Barbiglia, Barhiya and Gidhour these *pujas* are performed. The sweets offered as *Prasad* come both from Bengal and Bihar and show a blending of the two culinary art for sweets.

The Rathayatra of Jaggannath may be a contribution of Orissa to Bihar and Lord Jaggannath is established in temples in various places in Monghyr.

Bihar has adopted Ramhila festival as it is performed in the Uttar Pradesh. The culture of the western Shrikrishna Vaishnavism has a firm footing in Bihar and the principal Vaishnava festivals of

Shershah's army at Garhi (Surajgarha) and there was a battle at Surajgarha. Sher Shah appeared to have visited Monghyr twice. These facts are being mentioned to indicate that the quartering of Muslim army on the soil of Monghyr district naturally brought in an impact of Muslim culture and tradition that left a definite mark on the social and economic life of the district. It has also to be mentioned in this connection that several Muslim saints of the Chisti order had lived in Monghyr and had disciples among both Muslim and Hindu communities.

MONGHYR IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

The great cultural heritage of Monghyr is also indicated by the references to Monghyr in contemporary literature particularly in Bengali and in English. Bengal's contact with Monghyr has been intimate and since a long time. Bengal had obviously drawn a great deal of inspiration from the scenic beauty and the culture of Monghyr district. In this connection it may incidentally be mentioned that the famous Pala Emperor, Devapala and his officers and soldiers had come to Monghyr and the recent finds of copper plates and stone edicts are important source materials for Monghyr's history. During the Muslim period the people of Bengal had a great opportunity to come to Monghyr district and settle in various parts. The Bengali poet Vijaya Ram Sen Visharad referred to Monghyr in his book "*Tirtha Mangal*" in 1769. Later the great dramatist of Bengal, Dinbandhu Mitra had given a beautiful description of Monghyr in his poetical work "*Surodhani Kabya*". The famous Bengali poets Nabin Chandra Sen Baldeo Palit (of Patna) and the great novelists Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Ramesh Chandra Dutta, Sarat Chandra Chatterji, Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Dwarka Nath Vidyabhusan, Nirupama Devi, Annada Shankar Ray, Saradindu Bandopadhyay, Bibhuti Bhushan Mukherji, etc., have given descriptions of Monghyr in some of their works.

Among the foreigners who had visited Monghyr and left some accounts, the first mention should be made of Hiuen Tsiang who visited portions of Monghyr in the first half of the seventh century A. D. and had left an account of Monghyr which he describes as *Hiranya Paurato*.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century A. D. one Nicolas Gref, a Dutch physician, had come to Monghyr and had left an account. Rev. H. Martyn had visited Monghyr and has given a description of Monghyr in a letter, dated November 17, 1806. He describes Monghyr and particularly Sitakund. Buchanan Hamilton, the great medico-geographer, who had been deputed by the British Government to compile a historical and geographical account of the country had visited Monghyr in the first decade of the nineteenth century and has given us an account which has now been published. Bishop Heber had visited Monghyr in 1823. In his book *Narrative of his journey through the Upper Provinces in India*, Chapter X,

Volume I published in 1827, he has given an account of Monghyr. In November, 1857 Honourable Emily Eden came to Monghyr and has left an account in the book *Up the Country*. Fanny Parkes visited Monghyr in 1836 and has left her impressions on the book *Wanderings of a Pilgrim*. Sir Joseph Hooker had also come to Monghyr and has given his impressions on Monghyr. Another book on the district is *Natural History, Sport and Travel*, by Edward Lockwood, a former Magistrate of Monghyr.

In this connection it may be mentioned that Monghyr has contributed a number of writers in Hindi. One of the living poets who has attained high literary fame is Shri Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'. His writings have made Monghyr district familiar to a vast circle of Hindi readers.

SANSKRIT CULTURE.

It may be mentioned that in spite of the present pattern of educational system there are still some places in Monghyr district where Sanskrit *Pandits* attract students. A cursory enquiry was made and it was found that there are quite a number of old families of scholars who carry on the paternal tradition and possess some extremely rare and valuable manuscripts. These families are Maithil Brahmins and there is no doubt that there was an intimate exchange of ideas between Mithila and Anga. The following list will give an idea of kind of learning that these old families could once be proud of:—

- (1) With Sri Bhagirthi Mishra of Barauni, P.-S. Teghra—
 - (i) Treatise on Astrology of Harlal Mishra (about 184 years old).
 - (ii) Treatise on Astrology, author unknown—about 140 years old (both in Devnagri script).
- (2) With Pandit Diwakar Mishra of Barauni, P.-S. Teghra—
 - (i) Treatise manuscript on Nyaya Philosophy by Gadadhar, about 200 years old in Devnagri script.
 - (ii) Manuscripts of copies of part of the Veda written about 87 years old in Devnagri script.
 - (iii) Stotra by Prahladananda Charya of Jallundhur Vidya-pith Manuscripts in Devnagri script about 200 years old.
 - (iv) Tika Kirataryuni in Devnagri script about 200 years old.
 - (v) Tika on Lavya Prakash by Mammet—in Devnagri script—about 200 years old.
 - (vi) Mundoponishada—200 years old.
 - (vii) Patanjali Yogasasha—200 years old.
- (3) With Sri Nokheylal Missir of Barauni, P.-S. Teghra—
 - (i) Bhrigu Samhita in Maithili script—Very old, on thick paper like *Bhojpatra*.

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH.

What the modern Monghyr lacked was a centre for study and research to keep up the flow of the rich heritage of culture. That has now been provided by the Shri Krishna Seva Sadan with thousands of books on various subjects, manuscripts, etc., and ample accommodation for study and research. A library of this type will be an acquisition in any part of the world. The blend of ideas and traditions that Monghyr boasts of is epitomised in the building itself with its constructive features, location and the spirit of service on the part of the donors. Recently about 20 thousand books have been donated by Dr. Shri Krishna Sinha to form a separate wing "Kamala-Mahesh Library".

STATEMENT I.

Comparative Statement showing figures of Institutions and Scholars at the end of last six period of five years.

Area in square miles—3,927.

Year.	Males		Females		Total
1931 .. .	11,45,797		11,41,357		22,87,154
1941 . ..	12,84,084		12,80,460		25,64,544
1951 . . .	14,34,274		14,20,582		28,54,856

Kind of institutions	1931 32.				1936 37.			
	Number of schools for—		Number of scholars		Number of schools for—		Number of scholars	
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
High and Post Basic Schools	12		2,913		14		3,754	.
Middle and Senior Basic Schools	46	1	4,323	64	65	2	8,721	200
Primary and Senior Basic Schools	1,425	179	46,972	4,260	1,407	173	51,780	4,700
Professional Schools ..								..
Special Schools .	27		1,216		32		1,403	.
TOTAL	1,511	180	55,423	4,324	1,518	175	65,658	4,900
UNRECOGNISED INSTITUTIONS	209	13	5,266	295	177	10	5,627	246
GRAND TOTAL ..	1,720	193	60,709	4,619	1,695	185	71,285	5,146

STATEMENT I—*concl'd.*

Kind of Institutions.	1941-42.				1946-47.			
	Number of schools for—		Number of scholars.		Number of schools for—		Number of scholars.	
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
High and Post Basic Schools	21	1	5,448	108	29	1	9,318	166
Middle and Senior Basic Schools.	114	4	11,195	213	126	7	13,994	513
Primary and Senior Basic Schools.	1,542	189	60,217	5,838	1,610	188	70,681	6,126
Professional Schools ..	9	.	1,092	..	9	1	1,180	25
Special Schools ..	27	..	1,042	.	29	..	960	..
TOTAL ..	1,713	194	78,094	6,157	1,703	197	96,130	6,830
UNRECOGNISED INSTITUTIONS	165	13	5,050	295	118	11	2,870	205
GRAND TOTAL ..	1,878	207	84,044	8,452	1,821	208	99,009	7,126

Kind of Institutions	1951-52				1956-57.				Remarks.
	Number of schools for—		Number of scholars.		Number of schools for—		Number of scholars.		
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	
1	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
High and Post-Basic Schools.	59	3	10,408	506	85	4	21,503	1,043	
Middle and Senior Basic Schools.	232	7	24,528	646	280	11	26,893	3,198	
Primary and Senior Basic Schools.	1,742	183	96,828	7,006	2,160	222	1,09,146	27,914	
Professional Schools	9	2	967	22	10	2	1,456	104	
Special Schools ..	32	.	1,014	..	32	..	1,165	8	
TOTAL ..	2,074	195	1,39,745	8,090	2,367	239	1,60,198	32,269	
UNRECOGNISED INSTITUTIONS.	53	9	3,304	332	23	..	1,651	5	
GRAND TOTAL	2,127	204	1,43,049	8,422	2,390	239	1,61,849	32,274	

STATEMENT II.

Comparative Statement showing Institutions and Scholars by Management during 1941-42, 1951-52 and 1956-57.

Kind of Institutions,	State managed						District Board managed						Municipal managed.					
	Institutions for--			Scholars			Institutions for--			Scholars			Institutions for--			Scholars		
	Boys.	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
1941-42.																		
I. High and Post-Basic Schools																		
II. Middle and Senior Basic Schools																		
III. Primary and Junior Basic Schools																		
IV. Professional Schools																		
V. Special Schools																		
Total—1941-42																		
1951-52.																		
I. High and Post-Basic Schools	4	1	1,221	209														
II. Middle and Senior Basic Schools	18	2	3,024	235	39		4,984											
III. Primary and Junior Basic Schools.	13	1	1,274	120	804	34	34,204	1,023	62									
IV. Professional Schools	6	2	773	22														
V. Special Schools																		
Total—1951-52	40	6	6,292	676	843	34	60,183	1,023	62	9	5,570	626						
1956-57																		
Excludes one Central Managed Railway High School, Jamalpur																		
I. High and Post-Basic Schools	3	1	916	475														
II. Middle and Senior Basic Schools	28	4	3,424	466	41		5,949											
III. Primary and Junior Basic Schools					1,068	43	77,750	2,511	69	13	6,093	1,113						
IV. Professional Schools	5	2	462	63														
V. Special Schools	1		61															
Total—1956-57	37	7	4,853	1,004	1,109	48	83,705	2,511	72	14	6,428	1,172						

Figures not available

STATEMENT II—concl'd.

Kind of Institutions	Aided.						Unaided						Total	
	Institutions for—			Scholars			Institutions for—			Scholars			Institutions for—	
	Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
I	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
1911 42														
I. High and Post Basic Schools														
II. Middle and Senior Basic Schools														
III. Primary and Junior Basic Schools														
IV. Professional Schools														
V. Special Schools														
Total—1911 42														
1931 52														
I. High and Post Basic Schools	52	2	14,544	207	3		613		59	3	10,408	500		
II. Middle and Senior Basic Schools	107	5	13,926	451	88		2,600		232	7	24,528	640		
III. Primary and Junior Basic Schools	774	121	31,423	4,938	119	18	4,357	574	1,772	183	96,828	7,000		
IV. Professional Schools	2		96		2		98		9	2	070	22		
V. Special Schools	31		996		1		18		32		1,014			
Total—1931 52	966	128	60,979	5,598	193	18	7,716	594	2,104	195	1,39,754	9,080		
1956 57.														
I. High and Post Basic Schools	48	2	14,382	244	33	1	5,912	78	84	4	21,210	797		
II. Middle and Senior Basic Schools	131	6	13,315	654	74		3,280		277	11	26,303	1,169		
III. Primary and Junior Basic Schools	976	155	41,914	6,754	47	6	1,674	266	2,160	222	1,27,437	10,644		
IV. Professional Schools	3		197		1		288		9	2	947	63		
V. Special Schools	401		12,853		3		175		405		13,097			
Total—1956 57	1,559	163	82,661	7,652	158	7	11,329	344	2,935	239	1,88,984	12,673		

Figures not available

STATEMENT III

Comparative Statement showing number of Teachers (Men, Women, Trained and Untrained) working in different kinds of Institutions during 1941-42, 1951-52 and 1956-57

Kind of Institutions	1941-42						1951-52	
	Men		Women		Total		Men	
	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
High and Post Basic Schools	112	140	5	3	117	149	235	393
Middle and Senior Basic Schools	257	290	4	8	261	304	419	634
Primary and Senior Basic Schools	1 413	1 067	31	137	1 444	1 204	2 054	1 210
Professional Schools	30	2			30	2	33	2
Special Schools	05				05		70	
Total	1 877	1 511	40	148	1 017	1 059	2 811	2 943

Kind of Institutions	1951-52—concl'd					1956-57				
	Women		Total		Men	Women		Total		Men
	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained		Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
High and Post Basic Schools	8	9	243	400	348	560	14	21	360	581
Middle and Senior Basic Schools	21	18	440	658	532	707	50	33	580	740
Primary and Senior Basic Schools	89	150	2 143	1 380	2 718	863	138	147	2 876	1 010
Professional Schools	4		37	2	57		8		60	
Special Schools			70		101		5		106	
Total	122	177	2 933	2 420	3 756	2 130	215	201	3 991	2 331

REMARKS—Figures for the year 1931-32 is not available

STATEMENT IV.

Comparative Statement showing figures of expenditure over different kinds of Institutions during 1931-32, 1941-42, 1951-52, 1956-57.

Kind of Institutions		1931-32				1941-42			
		Govern- ment funds	Local bodies funds	Other sources	Total	Govern- ment funds	Local bodies funds	Other sources	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
High and Post Basic Schools	{ For men			1 24,071	38 111		1,72,803		2,10,974
	{ For women			.	3 000		6,400		10,090
Uddle and Senior Basic Schools	{ For men			94,330	2,064	59,883	1,22,918		1,85,765
	{ For women			1 066	2,460		2,783		5,243
Primary and Junior Basic schools	{ For men			3,25 167	2,030	2 55,162	1,04,075		3 61,872
	{ For women			27,775		28,386	3,017		31,933
Professional Schools	{ For men				16,432		97,195		1,13,934
	{ For women								
Special Schools	{ For men			1 27 040	4,864		17,317		21,981
	{ For women								
Total of all kinds of institutions	{ For men			6 74 008	64,806	3 15 352	5,14 368		8,94 526
	{ For women			28 835	6 000	28 386	12,820		47,269

STATEMENT IV—*concd.*

1950-57

1951-52

Kind of Institutions

	Govern- ment funds	Local bodies funds	Other sources	Total.	Govern- ment funds	Local bodies funds	Other sources	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
I	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
High and Post Basic Schools	2,76,162		6,66,764	9,72,926	4,99,496		10,14,562	14,21,028
	For men							
Middle and Senior Basic Schools	38,163		18,273	56,436	52,176		30,891	83,067
	For women							
Primary and Junior Basic Schools	1,96,716	4,75,360	3,31,866	10,03,936	2,72,130	4,02,149	4,54,827	11,29,106
	For men							
Professional Schools	27,094	1,823	4,826	34,013	49,629	2,628	11,901	63,249
	For women							
Special Schools	1,17,295	12,83,575	20,154	14,21,024	8,673	17,43,499	28,400	17,80,482
	For men							
Total of all kinds of Institutions	8,983	85,400	2,672	97,660		88,507	13,000	1,01,507
	For women							
	4,95,291	1,362	69,7	5,03,616	1,50,280	884	10,128	1,61,292
	For men							
	5,760			5,360	24,100		178	24,278
	For women							
	58,026		35,122	93,448	79,214		39,120	98,334
	For men							
	11,13,484	17,66,237	10,91,163	39,91,944	8,00,763	21,40,442	15,47,037	45,90,242
	For men							
	80,505	87,225	25,771	1,93,561	1,25,896	91,135	55,070	2,72,101
	For women							

CHAPTER XV.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

EARLY HISTORY

Like the other parts of the country the system of medicine in the early times was use of locally known medicinal herbs and Ayurvedic system. The Ayurvedic system of medicine had its roots in the culture, the climate and atmosphere of the country. The indigenous herbs and plants contain much medicinal properties capable of effecting relief to the ailing patients at a low cost. They were easily available in the local surroundings. Ayurveda developed the use of minerals which it used as *ras* or *bhasma* prepared according to their own methods which could not but be based on a thorough knowledge of chemistry. Later the Unani system of medicine became popular with the advent of the Muslim rulers. But the *Hakims*, though enjoyed the patronage of the Muslim rulers did not become so popular like the *Vaidyas* in the rural areas and their practice remained confined mostly in the cities.

and the bites of serpents, and opposed the influence of witch-craft by incantation. Their number during Buchanan Hamilton's time was numerous. Buchanan had mentioned that "A branch of these wiseacres practice inoculation for the small pox and with the utmost success". The inoculation was chiefly performed by a caste known as Mali or makers of garlands. Buchanan further mentioned that "This success and the general adoption of the practice under the introduction of the vaccine of very little importance, Mr Hogg at Mungger employed as subordinate vaccinator cannot procure one person to bring a child without a bribe". Witch-craft (*Jadu or tona*) was common in the district of Monghyr.

Regarding the indigenous system of medicines W W Hunter in the *Statistical Account of Monghyr* published in 1877 mentioned as follows —

"The Kabiraji or Hindu physicians of Bihar are possessed of a system of medicine which, in the hands of the more educated members of the profession, is on the whole rational, though founded on a vague and hypothetical knowledge. There are besides a large number of quack doctors in league with the village *ojhas* or spirit charmers and low Brahmans who recommend incantation, charms, and the performance of *puja*."

The Kabirajs or Vaidyas usually had a vast knowledge of herbs and drugs. Hunter had mentioned 116 types of indigenous drugs practised by the Kabirajs.

After the occupation of the district by the Britishers an attempt was made to introduce the allopathic system of treatment. At the beginning there was a lot of antipathy on the part of the people to take to the modern system of allopathic treatment and it was difficult to push an injection or to make an operation. But that phase has now gone. People are definitely hospital minded in spite of their complaints against the hospitals. The hospitals and dispensaries are usually run by the State or the District Boards. With the abolition of zamindari, that source of charitable endowments for dispensaries, child welfare and maternity centres has dried up. There are very few private hospitals or dispensaries save a very few run by the Missionaries. Private Nursing Homes as an institution have not yet grown. The private doctors charge quite a lot. The medical practitioners, either Government servants or private practitioners have done no research and they have, as a consequence, no contribution to medical advancement. It has to be mentioned here that it is private charity which founded the Sadar Hospital at Monghyr.

VITAL STATISTICS

The accuracy of the available vital statistics is open to question. The village *chaukidars* are the source and their intelligence or urge

for investigation is rather low. The diagnosis of the cause of death reported by the village *chaukidars* cannot be relied on if there is any doubt it is generally attributed to fever. When the *chaukidar* is himself indisposed the reporting agency probably stops altogether for indefinite time. It is expected that with the spread of the *Gram Panchayats* the level of inaccuracy will gradually disappear. A second source of the vital statistics is the census which is taken once in a decade. Occasional health surveys are conducted in a particular area but they are not helpful for generalisations as they are usually confined to the survey of a particular disease in a small area.

The population of district has steadily increased in every census except in the 1921 census which recorded a fall of 1 05 035 which was caused due to the epidemics of cholera, plague and influenza. On the whole birth rate always exceeded death rate. The vital statistics as enumerated in the census of 1951 are given below —

Years	Birth (registered)			Death (registered)		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941	80 730	41 536	39 203	55 459	29 135	26,817
1942	62 698	34 006	28 692	26 495	15 448	11 047
1943	34 622	18 283	15 739	24 772	13 397	11 375
1944	59 673	27 126	25 247	43 457	22 641	20 816
1945	73 938	38 363	34 735	56 152	29 668	26 544
1946	62 610	32 076	30 534	44 326	23 381	20 939
1947	49 591	23 187	20 494	38 726	26 458	18 262
1948	44 523	23 548	20 975	35 583	16 637	15 616
1949	54 133	27 010	27 123	31 867	16 884	15 623
1950	40 607	23 995	22 162	31 807	17 381	14 426

The figures of vital statistics as recorded in the *Bihar Statistical Handbook* published by the Director, Central Bureau of Economics and Statistics from 1951 to 1955 are put below —

Year	Total number of live births registered (male and female) *	Total number of deaths registered (male and female)
1951	50,691	40,149
1952	46 239	24 503
1953	40 558	20 709
1954	38 281	21,151
1955	30,772	16,772

* The vital statistics figures supplied by the Civil Surgeon Monghyr vary with the census figures mentioned and the figures of the *Bihar Statistical Handbook*. The statistics from the office of the Civil Surgeon appear unacceptable and the figures from the other sources have been accepted.

Thus from the statistics it is apparent that both birth and death rate had shown downward tendency. The average birth rate in the quinquennium 1941—1945 was 60,514 or 23.4 per mille of the population whereas in the quinquennium 1946—1950 the average birth rate fell to 50,151 or 19.9 per mille of the total population. In the last quinquennium the average birth-rate came down to 4,138 or 14.4 per mille of the population. The highest birth rate was in 1941 while the lowest birth-rate was in 1955. The average death rate during the quinquennium 1941—1945 was 41,266 or about 16 per mille of the population whereas in the quinquennium 1946—1950 it fell to 36,545 or 12.6 per mille of the population. In the last quinquennium the average death rate came down to 24,655 or 8.4 per mille of the total population.

The mortality caused by fever exceeds always that of other diseases. But fever covers a number of ailments which the reporters are unable to identify. Deaths from cholera, plague, small pox and the respiratory diseases had been very few. The incidence of plague which caused havoc during the decade 1911—1921 had been very much reduced.

DISEASES

The principal diseases which are common in the district are malarial fever, *kala azar*, dysentery, diarrhoea and other forms of bowel diseases, ophthalmia, otorrhea, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, leprosy, goitre, small pox, cholera, plague and tuberculosis.

Malaria is common all over the district. It is a disease transmitted through mosquitoes (*anophiline*) which breed in stagnant water and hence is found mostly in places where mosquitoes can easily breed in abundance. Due to spread of dispensaries in the interior and easy method of treatment by quinine and other synthetic drugs like Mepacrine and Paludrine the evil effects of this disease so common before are not so much to be seen now and death rate from malaria has much decreased. There has not been any systematic malaria survey in the district. *Kala azar* is common in North Monghyr. Formerly this disease was a terror in the society and good many cases ended fatally. But now with the invention of ureastibamine and other antimony preparations this disease is quite amenable to treatment and death rate amongst treated cases is negligible now. The average number of patients treated annually for malaria and *kala azar* in the different hospitals and dispensaries comes to about 16,000 and 2,000 respectively.*

The Khagaria Subdivisional Hospital, Simri Bakhtiarpur Primary Centre, Manjhaul, Kharagpur, Parsando and Mansichak dispensaries used to treat the large number of malarial patients

* The figures are based on the number of patients treated in the different hospitals and dispensaries supplied by the Civil Surgeon of Monghyr.

Anti-malaria centres have been recently started at Monghyr, Jamui, Khagaria and Begusarai.

Plague.

Plague first broke out in the district in January, 1900, but subsided in May, only to re-appear with renewed virulence in the ensuing cold weather. The total number of deaths reported in 1900 was 2,052, but as in other districts and as usual during the first seasons of the epidemic the disease was far more prevalent than the reports would indicate, and much of the mortality was concealed. The parts of the district which suffered most were Monghyr town and Sheikhpura *thana*. Next year the epidemic was more widespread, and 4,742 deaths were returned. In 1905 plague caused 11,080 deaths. Since then plague had been an annual visitation for some years. Death-rate due to plague remained high till 1917. After that it gradually decreased and almost disappeared from the district. It re-appeared in the northern part in 1945 and with greater virulence. Due to advanced Public Health measures, e.g., D. D. T. spray, cyanogasing and mass inoculation, the disease could be controlled easily and due to recent advances in curative drugs the death-rate also decreased to a greater extent. The following are the figures of number of attacks and deaths due to plague for the period 1944 to 1952 :—

Year.	Number of—		D. D. T. Spray.	Cyanogasing.	Inoculation.
	Attacks.	Deaths.	Number of rooms.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1944 ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	44,102
1945 ..	N.A.	253	..	..	3,27,962
1946 ..	1,511	1,013	..	..	2,94,696
1947 ..	106	50	57,103	8,76,537	2,00,739
1948 ..	423	338	1,89,010	8,60,050	3,31,799
1949 ..	592	480	1,43,771	12,84,460	1,67,701
1950 ..	238	124	1,25,748	10,18,007	31,200
1951 ..	Nil	Nil	75,080	4,82,441	21,456
1952 ..	..	..	..	..	..

Cholera.

Cholera is endemic in the district and often breaks out in epidemic form. In the epidemic of 1918 the mortality due to cholera was as high as 7.7 per mille, in 1917 it was 3.1, in 1921 2.4, and in 1919 1.8 per mille. In 1920, 1922 and 1923 the death-rate from this disease was less than one-half per mille, and it has been rare in Monghyr town since the filtered water-supply was installed. The

figures for the last ten years regarding the number of deaths and number of curative cholera measures taken are as follows —

Year	Number of deaths	Inoculation performed	Disinfection of wells
1	2	3	4
1942	3,007		
1943	1 074		
1944	3,513		
1945	6 352		
1946	1,628		
1947		4 67,847	10 101
1948		4 39 525	41,340
1949	..	1 31 088	30 122
1950		5,42,096	94 912
1951		5,53 853	1 31,335

Small pox

Eighty years ago it was mentioned in the *Statistical Account of Bengal* that "small pox, though it is ordinarily regarded as an epidemic, is in this district, as in every other where inoculation largely prevails, in reality an endemic from which the people are never free" These remarks no longer hold good for inoculation has ceased, vaccination has made great progress, and since the present system of maintenance of vital statistics was introduced the annual death rate has never been even 1 per mille

Figures for the last ten years are as follows —

Year	Number of deaths	Vaccinations performed	Re vaccination	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1942	430			
1943	69			
1944	448	67 276	64 006	1 31,282
1945	3 255	67 013	1 77 853	2,44 866
1946	800	66,235	1,39 512	2 05 737
1947	433	59,225	1 23 744	1 87 969
1948	1,159	69 751	69 750	1,39 501
1949	179	69 966	86 728	1 56 694
1950	795	58,161	1 35 370	1 93,921
1951	4 466	84 391	4 01 493	4,85 884

Diarrhœa and Dysentery.

Dysentery is found in all seasons of the year but is met with most frequently during the rains. The poorer classes suffer most from it, a fact which may be attributed to their greater exposure to the vicissitudes of temperature, and also no doubt to bad food, scanty clothing and other privations. Diarrhœa is prevalent in all seasons, but is most common at the beginning and end of the rains.

Intestinal Parasites.

The diseases due to intestinal parasites are very common. The chief varieties to be met with are *entamœba histolytica* and *giardia* among the protozoal infections and hookworm, round-worm and thread-worm amongst the helmenthic infections. Tape worm is rare and is found mostly amongst Mohammadans who take beef.

Amœbiasis has become very common in this district as elsewhere. In about 40 per cent of the stools examined at the hospital during 1952, cysts of *entamœba histolytica* were found. This disease besides weakening the digestion and causing vague pain in the abdomen causes various troubles mostly arising out of intestinal toxæmia, e.g., giddiness, reeling of head, fainting fit, palpitation, etc. In spite of various recent drugs this disease is not easily amenable to treatment. It is prevalent amongst all classes of people.

Hookworm is very common in North Monghyr. Round-worm is common in children. Cases have been seen where bunches of round-worms consisting of 100 or more, come out 21 2 time after medicines. One thousand two hundred stools ~~examined~~ during three years at Monghyr hospital indicate the following result:—

Persons.

diseases due to intestinal parasites are caused by promiscuous defecation and walking bare-footed.

Eye Disease.

Conjunctivitis is common during the months of April and May when the hot west winds are loaded with dust. It often occurs only in a mild form, but among the poor it is apt to take the form of purulent ophthalmia, resulting in total destruction of the eye or in the formation of permanent opacities of the cornea. Most of the poor show signs of eye complications due to avitaminosis. Cataract is very common in the district. Large number of patients are operated upon at the Sadar Hospital, Monghyr and at the Mission Hospital at Bamda. Goitre is confined in a very curious manner to the villages on the bank of the Burhi Gandak in the north west of the district. Even animals are said to be affected by the disease in some villages. Bamda Mission hospital attracts patients from beyond the district.

Tuberculosis

This great scourge of society is gradually increasing every day. The hospital figures are not correct indication of the incidence of this disease as lots of cases do not go to the hospital and a good many of them who go to the hospital are not properly diagnosed and are classed as bronchitis or other respiratory diseases. Unhygienic mode of living and lack of care of sputum are the main causes of spreading the infection. Poor housing and poor economic condition of the people help to accelerate the incidence of the disease.

To check the spread of the disease it is essential to educate the masses in the cause and mode of prevention of the disease. The B C G vaccination helps as a prophylactic measure. Isolation and care of sputum are the main steps to be taken to check the disease. Hospitalisation of all patients is not possible for want of beds. The only alternative is isolation in home. A tuberculosis clinic is working at Monghyr from 23 July, 1938 where 324 patients on the average per year are treated. They are given injections twice in a week and are given A P free of any charges. They get ordinary medicines from hospital and have to purchase costly drugs. The health visitor of the clinic visits all the affected persons and advises them about their mode of living. There could be much more of domiciliary treatment.

A ten-bedded tuberculosis ward has just been started at the Sadar Hospital. This will give some relief to the patients of the district but this help is like a drop in the ocean. Bronchitis is common in the cold weather, being chiefly met with in the old and poor. Pneumonia is fairly common. Asthma is prevalent chiefly among the old, but it is by no means limited to them. Calculus or stone in the bladder occurs in all parts of the district and is often

found in children Lathyrism is fairly common in North Monghyr Hydrocele is a very common cause of partial disability Hernia is also getting fairly common in the district

It is also to be noted that there is a high incidence of hypertension particularly among the brain workers with static habits Coronary Thrombosis is taking a heavy toll among such people Strain on nerves that the modern trend of life imposes is commonly ascribed to be one of the causes of hypertension

Infirmities

The most prevalent infirmity is blindness 55 per 1,00,000 males and 59 per 1,00,000 females having been returned as blind at the census of 1921 It appears to be most common among castes engaged in agricultural pursuits, probably owing to the glare and dust from the sandy soil Of deafmutes there are 36 per 1,00,000 males and 24 per 1,00,000 females, more commonly found along the course of the Burhee Gandak than in other parts of the district and particularly in the Teghra and Begusarai thinas Insanity is rare, only 84 males and 3 females per 1,00,000 returned insane in the census of 1921

Leper Clinics—Leprosy

Leprosy is not uncommon, 23 per 1,00,000 males and 36 per 1,00,000 females having been returned as lepers at the census of 1921 Popular belief connects the disease with general uncleanness of living and unwholesome diet and the lowest castes most frequently suffer from it But leprosy is no longer confined only to poor classes Whatever may be the reason there has been a somewhat unfortunate spread of leprosy in other classes as well The virulence of the disease also appears to increase with the descent in the social order for the lowest classes are generally attacked with the worst form and the development of the disease is more rapid in their case The earliest symptoms are anæsthetic patches, thickening of the ulnar nerve, and slight hypertrophy of the integument of the ears and forehead

There are three leper clinics working in the district, viz at (1) Monghyr, (2) Begusarai and (3) Jamui There is a Leper Asylum at Monghyr (Purb-Sarai)

With recent advances in the treatment of leprosy it is expected that the number of persons affected with this disease would decrease

ORGANISATION

The Civil Surgeon whose designation is now the Senior Executive Medical Officer is the head of the medical and health activities of the district, and in his work he is assisted by several Assistant Civil Surgeons He is in over-all charges of the State managed hospitals and dispensaries He also supervises the hospitals and dispensaries

The Senior Executive Medical Officer, Monghyr is the Superintendent of the hospital. In his work he is assisted by the Deputy Superintendent and the Second, Third and the Fourth Medical Officers. There is a separate building for women patients. There is a qualified Lady Doctor for them under the Senior Executive Medical Officer. A Dental Surgeon has been recently appointed in charge of the Dental Ward. It has a well equipped X Ray plant. The hospital has gained popularity and remains over crowded throughout the year. The total strength of beds of the hospital is 130 (86 for males and 44 for females). The average daily attendance of the outdoor patients in 1958 was 305.11 and indoor patients 129.23. In 1958 the average daily attendance of the outdoor tuberculosis patients was 6.27 for males and 7.66 for females.

Subdivisional Hospitals

The Jamun Subdivisional Hospital was established in 1917 and was provincialised in 1955. It has 42 beds, 36 for males and six for females. The Begusarai Subdivisional Hospital was opened in 1914 and was provincialised in 1955. The bed strength of the hospital is 42, 34 for males and 8 for females. The Khagaria Subdivisional Hospital has been provincialised under the Kosi and Kamla Relief Scheme in 1949. It has 30 beds for males and 12 beds for females. The hospital work of the subdivisional hospitals is discharged by an Assistant Surgeon and a Second Medical Officer and a Lady Doctor.

The Police Hospital is exclusively for the police staff and it has 16 beds. There are four Missionary dispensaries in the district. They are at Jamalpur (Notre Dame Academy Dispensary), Barbiglia, Chakri and at Bamda. The Bamda Dispensary is managed by the Scottish Mission. This is a famous centre for cataract operations. Under Dr MacPhail and his son the hospital drew patients beyond the district limits in very large number. Only outdoor patients are treated in the remaining State and the District Board managed dispensaries except Sikandra which has five beds, Simri Bakhtapur six and the Gangta Dispensary which has 16 beds. Twenty medical institutions are managed by the State Government, 22 by the District Board and one by the Jamalpur Municipality.

The total strength of the beds in the district including the railway and missionary managed hospitals and dispensaries is 509. Considering the population the number of beds appears to be far too inadequate and the ratio of beds is one to about 5,500 population.

Other Medical Institutions

Every block is to be provided with one Medical Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, three Health Workers and three trained *dais* or

39 existing Blocks in the district only 10 have been provided with Medical Officer and other staff. They are at Chakai, Kharagpur, Sheikhpara, Barbigha, Gogri, Parbatta, Khodawandpur, Cheria Bariarpur and Lakshmipur.

THE TIBBI AND AYURVEDIC SYSTEMS

The two systems of treatment are losing popularity in this district as also elsewhere among all classes of people, the rich, the middle and the poor for certain important reasons,—(1) the lack of modern methods of diagnosis, (2) less of certainty of the action of drugs as compared to the allopathic medicines due to lack in proper recognition of the herbs and minerals that provide the basic materials for the medicines of the two systems, and of the lack of standardisation of the active principles in the medicines in the two systems, (3) lack of charitable institutions serving medicines to the poor, etc.

The easy availability of the sulphad-rugs (e.g., M B 760 sulphadiazine, sulphaguanidine), synthetic drugs (e.g., aspirin, enterovioform, saridon) and the recently invented anti-biotics (e.g., penicillin, chloromycetin, streptomycin) have become almost commonly known and have been very valuable additions to the allopathic system of medicines and are capable of treating a very wide range of common diseases from itches and headache to tuberculosis and leprosy with considerable success and with almost at a cheap cost. The advancement in the knowledge of treating successfully a very wide range of deficiency diseases have further narrowed the avenues of medication in the Tibbi and Ayurvedic systems. The above groups of medicines and recognition of vitamins in the allopathic system have given very severe blows to the two indigenous systems of treatment.

The two indigenous systems of treatment are likely to vanish rapidly from the field in the near future in view of growing popularity of the western system of medication and the setting up of the sulphad-rugs, anti-biotics (penicillin, etc.) and basic drugs industries in the country that will reduce the cost of treatment very considerably.

The rich and the middle classes who can afford paid medical aid in the district mostly avail of the allopathic system of medicine. The poor seek the help of the charitable institutions, either the indigenous or the allopathic, that may be easily available to them. The choice of the poor falls generally on a homeopath if he decides upon paid medical help for the obvious cheapness of the medicines in this system.

The Tibbi and Ayurvedic practitioners appear to be in demand under certain conditions as below —

- (1) Very difficult availability of allopathic aid
- (2) Very easy availability of the *Paidyas* and *Hakims*

- (3) If there be a *Vaidya* or *Hakim* of extraordinary repute within easy reach.
- (4) The *Vaidyas* and *Hakims* continue to be popular with some Hindus and Muslims who almost hate the allopathic system of medication for its being a foreign system.
- (5) The *Vaidyas* and *Hakims* yet appear to attract considerable female patients for treatment of diseases confined to their sex but probably are not able to give greater relief than that by the female diseases experts in the western system of treatment.

There is only one institution in the whole district that teaches the Ayurvedic system of treatment, and also has an attached hospital and an outdoor dispensary that treat with Ayurvedic medicines. The institution is known as "Shree Ayodhya Shiva Kumari Ayurved Mahavidyalaya" and is situated in the town of Begusarai in North Monghyr. The institution has been started and is being run out of a donation made by a local zamindar, the late Babu Ayodhya Pd. Singh.

The above institution was founded in the year 1946. The teaching section has small up-to-date laboratories and a well maintained botanical garden for Ayurvedic herbs and trees. There are allopathic medical graduates also among the teachers who teach anatomy, physiology, midwifery, etc. The students have to study for four years to obtain a diploma.

The *Vaidyas* in the district have formed a "District Vaidya Sammelan" for gaining and safeguarding their rights and privileges. The total number of qualified *Vaidyas* in the district was 303 in the year 1948 as recorded with the Secretary of the above organisation. The up-to-date strength of qualified *Vaidyas* in the district is not known. Most of the qualified *Vaidyas* are engaged in private practice and only a very few are in service.

There is no Tibbi institution for training *Hakims* and treating cases under the Tibbi system of treatment. There is no organisation of the *Hakims* like the *Vaidya Sammelan*. The number of qualified *Hakims* in the district is not known. Apparently the number of *Hakims* is smaller than that of the *Vaidyas* in the district. Of the two indigenous systems of treatment, the Tibbi system appears to be less popular.

There are no *Vaidyas* or *Hakims* of extraordinary repute at present in the district.

Charitable Ayurvedic and Unani Dispensaries in the District.

(a) *Ayurvedic*.—There are five Ayurvedic dispensaries run by the Monghyr District Board. Each dispensary is in charge of a

qualified *Vaidya* The District Board managed dispensaries are located at (1) Mananpur (Lakhsarai P S), (2) Nayagaon (Gogri P S), (3) Meghaul (Cheria Bariarpur P S), (4) Sihma (Begusarai P S) and (5) Yogbasni Dighi (Jamui P S)

Besides the above five District Board managed Ayurvedic dispensaries, there are three more charitable Ayurvedic dispensaries managed jointly by the District Board and the State Government and they are located at (1) Lachhwar (Sikandra P S), (2) Bandehara (Parbatta P S) and (3) Teus (Barbigha P S) The above three are known as Government aided Ayurvedic dispensaries

(b) *Tibbi*—There is only one charitable Unani dispensary in the district at Manjhway (Lakhsarai P S) managed by the District Board

There are nine qualified Ayurvedic practitioners in the district who get subsidies both from the District Board and the State Government through the District Board for free consultation by the public and free distribution of medicines and they are at Mahadeosimaria (Sikandra P S), Sohdi (Sheikhpura P S), Abhaipur (Surajgarha P S), Mednichowki (Surajgarha P S) Mangobinder (Jamui P S), Garhpura (Bakhri P S), Sonbarsa (Chautham P S), Kamruddinpur (Begusarai P S) and Bindadiara (Monghyr Mufassil P S)

There is a proposal to start three more Ayurvedic dispensaries with equal contributions from the District Board and the State Government

THE HOMEOPATHIC SYSTEM OF TREATMENT.

The whole of this district is flooded with Homeopathic practitioners The northern part of the district appears to be richer in the numerical strength of these practitioners Even a small village in North Monghyr appears to have a Homeopath of its own The low economic status appears to be an important cause of the popularity of this system of treatment The fee charged by the experienced ones is from Re 1 to Rs 2 inclusive of the cost of medicine for distances up to four or five miles They cross streams and rivers to reach their patients with only small extra fees The cost of treatment inclusive of the charge of attendance of the Homeopath for common maladies is generally Re 1 if the practitioner belongs to the same village and the patient is frequently saved from high costs of attendance and medicinal charges by allopaths

In quite a number of common maladies where only careful dieting and nursing is needed, the Homeopaths appear to be scoring over their fellow practitioners of the allopathic and indigenous systems with regard to cost of treatment

A poor villager generally gets the aid of a Homeopath for his near and dear one readily for a cost of one to two rupees and feels

consoled that medical aid was provided irrespective of the result. It is impossible for the same poor villager to requisition an allopath's or a Vaid's aid in emergency for the amount needed on Homeopathic aid. This has led to the Homeopaths becoming very important members of the rural society and are always looked to in cases of physical distress.

The village Homeopaths have further added to the armaments of their medicines by freely using some of the reputed allopathic medicines, such as, sulphur drugs, penicillin, calcium, quinine and glucose injections, and a number of reputed patent medicines.

It is difficult to say, in the present state of rural economy, difficult availability of qualified medical aid and their costs of attendance and mixtures, as to how far the village Homeopaths are helpful or harmful to the society in using the above allopathic drugs. They are, however, frequently seen treating cases of malaria, cholera, dysenteries, pneumonia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, carbuncles, etc., with apparent relief to the patients for which qualified medical aid would cost nothing less than ten times the amount given to the village Homeopaths. Most of the village Homeopaths are seen practising the art of injections.

With the rise in the standard of rural living however, it is expected that Homeopaths will gradually lose ground but that will take a long time.

There is no important Homeopathic institution in the district for teaching and treatment. There is one small Homeopathic school at Kajra that teaches Homeopathy and is locally popular.

The Homeopaths in this district have a District Homeopathic Association for gaining and safeguarding their rights and privileges. Total number of qualified Homeopaths in the district is about 300 according to the up-to-date information available.

There is only one Homeopathic charitable dispensary in this district at Kandri (P S Sikandra) that receives District Board aid.

Nine Homeopathic practitioners in this district are being subsidised by the District Board and the State Government for free consultation by the public and distribution of free medicines. They are at Birupur (P S Burhee), Piparpanti (P S Gogri), Simho (P-S Begusarai), Chakhand (P S Tarapur), Shekhopur Surai (P S Barbiga), Chakba (P-S Cheria Bariarpur), Teli Buzi (P S Semri Bakhtiarpur), Mahendrapur (P S Begusarai) and Ramnagar (P S Khagaria).

THE CHANDSI SYSTEM OF TREATMENT

In almost every urban area of the district one finds a practitioner known as a "Chandsi Doctor". They principally treat cases of

acute and chronic ulcers, piles and skin diseases. Their medicinal applications are said to be useful in early cases of piles. The bases of their medicines are a secret.

THE VILLAGE SURGEONS

The *Hajams* and *Jurrahs* who frequently operated and extracted teeth have lost their hold and the practice of minor surgery appears to have passed on to the qualified dressers and compounders who do not always take septic precautions in treatment.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There are six Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district, viz. Monghyr, Mallehpur, Jamui, Khagaria, Chautham and Begusarai. The Monghyr centre is financed by the Bihar Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau and the rest five by the State Government. The Monghyr centre has its own building and is equipped with modern appliances. It is a well run and popular institution. Every centre has Health Visitor and trained *dais* to conduct labour cases. Mrs. Devar, a European resident of Monghyr has kept alive the movement in Monghyr.

FAMILY PLANNING

With a view to protect the health of the mothers and to check the growing alarming rate of growth of population the family planning scheme has been launched. There is a family planning centre attached with the Sidar Hospital, Monghyr under a 'B' grade nurse from 1958. The other centres are at Gogri, Khodawandpur and Cheria Bariarpur. These centres are under the charge of the Lady Health Visitors. The scheme is in its initial stage and not much work has been done yet.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The District Board, Monghyr is responsible for sanitation and public health services in the rural areas while the Municipality and the Notified Area Committee are in charge of the urban sanitation and health services. The State Government created the post of the Health Officer in 1943 to work under the District Board. The District Health Officer is responsible for the rural sanitation and the prevention of epidemics in the rural areas. The District Health Officer is now under the control of the Senior Executive Medical Officer. There are four Assistant Health Officers, eight Sanitary Inspectors and 27 Health Inspectors in the district. Apart from them there are several vaccinators and disinfectors.

The Public Health activities have been in existence under the District Board since its very inception in 1885. Previously the public health activities were not of continuous nature, but were restricted to the actual period of the epidemics. The activities used

to be almost nil during the pre and post epidemic periods. The public health activities have since been of continuous nature and as such requires whole time personnels. The activities comprise of—

- (a) control of epidemic, mainly cholera, small pox and plague,
- (b) improvement of environmental sanitation

The District Board has provided each *thana* Health Unit with bore hole machine. The Health Inspectors of the Public Health staff have been advised to maintain records of such latrines constructed to assess the benefit of such latrines from epidemiological point of view. Moreover, they have also been instructed to maintain a Well register to assess the number of wells for their proper and regular disinfection.

CONTROL OF SALE OF FOOD

This is being done under the provision of the Central Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The Assistant Health Officer and the Sanitary Inspectors have been designated as Food Inspectors and have been empowered to take samples as prescribed in the Rules.

Examination of school children has also been attempted but not on a regular basis due to paucity of staff.

MELA SANITATION

An important *mela* is held at Semariaghat where people congregate with the advent of winter and remain on the banks of the Ganga for a month for religious festivities. Throughout their stay, special arrangements are made by the Public Health Department for medical and public health relief. Besides the arrangement of light sinking of the wells are also made in the *mela* for the convenience of the pilgrims.

MASS VACCINATION

In order to avoid the epidemic of small pox, mass vaccination campaign was started in 1951, which is being continued up till now. Under this scheme 30 Government vaccinators and three Government Health Assistants have been specially deputed by the Government, so that the team might function properly.

In addition to this, 100 vaccinators under the Public Health Re-organisation Scheme have been appointed to carry on primary and re vaccination in the areas allotted to them.

The budgetary minimum provision to finance the Public Health Re-organisation Scheme payable by the Board is Rs 60 000. Besides this the sources of the Boards are augmented by the Government grant sanctioned year by year for the purpose.

The following table will show the incidence of the epidemic in respect of the cholera, small pox and plague and the anti epidemic measures taken thereon —

Cholera

Year	Attack	Death	Inoculation	Disinfection
1	2	3	4	5
1952 53	65	15	7,74,952	2,40,794
1953 54	909	411	11,17,308	2 93 855
1954 55	66	21	4,69,019	2,61,292
1955 56	286	97	6,42,003	4,02,469
1956 57	108	41	5,96,466	4,05,896

Small pox

Year	Attack	Death	Primary vaccination	Re vaccination.
1	2	3	4	6
1952 53	124	6	56 753	2,49,123
1953 54	76		66,690	1,89,747
1954 55	70	4	56,210	2,71,923
1955 56	19		62,227	2,73,281
1956 57	121	23	67,394	3,20,905

Plague.

Year	Attack	Death	Inoculation	Houses treated with D D T	Rat holes cyano gassed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1952 53			29,495	23,914	1,92,370
1953 54			7,996	7,698	48,740
1954 55			7,300	3,515	57,013
1955 56			2,520	1,537	25,537
1956 57	..		4,670	7,006	19,493

FLOOD

The Begusarai and Khagaria subdivisions and some parts of the Sadar subdivision have been generally affected by flood since 1954. A number of flood relief centres is opened where medicines of first aid and treatment of common ailments remain available with the Relief Doctors and other Public Health staff deputed by Government.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

To minimise the sufferings due to cholera, dysentery and other common ailments, step was taken by the Government for providing medicines, boxes and equipments for prompt relief against these diseases as various parts of the district are subjected to drought and flood. The distribution of village type boxes of medicines, which commenced in 1951, was very popular. Village type boxes were also purchased out of the District Epidemic Relief Fund, placed at the disposal of the District Magistrate and supplied to the villages to supply the medical needs. These boxes are refilled with medicines every year out of the same fund.

SKIMMED MILK

To save people against epidemic diseases, liberal supplies of milk powder and multi-vitamin tablets are made for infants, children and nursing expectant mothers. The result achieved on this account was strikingly good.

TRAINING OF GRAM SEVAKS

To augment public health work in the rural areas of the district, *Gram Sevaks* were trained in public health. Most of them were supplied with syringes and rotary lancets to perform inoculation and disinfection of wells in their jurisdiction.

TRAINING OF GURUS

A good number of *Gurus* were trained in inoculation and vaccination in 1948 and 1949 to help the public health activities.

PLAGUE

The sudden outbreak of plague in North Monghyr in 1945 is an important public health event of the 1st decade. The disease suddenly flared up throughout North Monghyr and formed a rigid belt of infection which was confronted with considerable cost and labour. The infection may be said to have subsided since 1951. Cyanogassing as a precautionary measure against future outbreak is absolutely necessary in the interest of public health measures and for this purpose the cyanogass scheme is still in operation.

ROLE OF N. E. S. AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN CONTROL OF EPIDEMICS AND IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

The Village Level Workers of the N. E. S. and C. D. Projects have also proved to be of some help in the prevention of epidemics and in

Canteen.—A canteen has been provided for workers in which the management pay overheads, but try to recover the cost of food stuffs. Tea and snacks are provided in the morning and meals during the break. Approximately 200 meals per day are served.

The arrangement has been now completed for a very fine new canteen which is due to be opened very shortly.

Rest Shelter.—A rest shelter with benches has been provided where drinking water is supplied.

Washing Places.—A number of washing places have also been provided for the workers engaged in such work at which they are liable to become dirty. Such workers are issued with a weekly ration of soap.

Drinking Water Facilities.—At present drinking water facilities are provided from both taps and earthen-ware pitchers, but in the near future a refrigerated water-supply system will be installed. At present during the hot weather water is cooled by ice.

Medical Facilities.—A dispensary for both workers and their dependants is provided. This dispensary is staffed by two full-time doctors, three compounders and a nurse, in addition to the dressers, sweepers, etc. When necessary, one doctor visits workers at their home. If a second opinion is necessary, workers are sent to the Civil Surgeon at the Company's expense.

Facilities not covered by the Factories Act.

Housing.—The Company had built under the Government of India subsidised Housing Scheme 54 *pucca* one-roomed tenements with flush type sanitary arrangements which are rented to the workers at Rs. 7-8-0 per month inclusive of electrical and water charges. The Housing Estate is at Shakarpur.

A further 26 two-roomed tenements and 120 one-roomed tenements have been built in 1959.

Institute.—The Company has provided an Institute with the aim of advancing the social, cultural, educational and physical well being of the workers.

Hospital.—The Company has built a hospital for workers and their dependants. It is expected to be taken over in due course under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

Cigarette Allowance.—The Company gives a Cigarette Allowance of five packets of "Scissors" cigarettes per week to the monthly paid workers and one packet of "Passing Show" cigarettes per week to the daily paid workers.

Uniforms.—Uniforms are supplied to all workers other than the clerical staff.

Educational—School fees for 300 workers' children are paid annually and scholarships are awarded annually four of Rs 50 per month and four of Rs 25 per month

Provident Fund—All workers are members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme of 1952

Charity Scheme—Workers who are permitted to leave the Company's service before retirement or who die before attaining the retirement age, or who retire at the age of 50 years receive a gratuity at the following rates —

Leave Gratuity—For 5 to 10 years service, there is provision for one fourth of a month's basic salary per completed year of service. For 10 to 15 years' service there is provision for three eighths of a month's basic salary per completed year of service

Fifteen years and above half month's basic salary per completed year of service

Retirement Gratuity—For 15 years service or above or having attained the age of 50 years one is entitled to half month's basic salary per completed year of service

Death Gratuity—There is provision for half month's basic salary per completed year of service up to a maximum 15 months' salary only

Loans, Ex Gratia Payments, etc—Following the agreement dated the 23rd November, 1954 an interest free loan amounting to Rs 50 000 was made available to the Co-operative Credit Society for granting advances to its members

Following the agreement, dated the 19th July, 1955 an *ex gratia* payment of Rs 1,00 000 was made available to the Monghyr Imperial Tobacco Employees' Multipurpose and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited for furthering its aims and objects as laid down in its Constitution and Rules

Following the agreement, dated the 19th July, 1956 an *ex gratia* payment of Rs 10 000 was made to the Union for the benefit of its members to be utilised for the promotion and advancement of the social, cultural, educational and physical well being of the workmen

Jamalpur Railway Workshop

Accommodation for Staff—The Workshop is pre eminently situated in a rural area although the small township growing round it has modern amenities of life, e.g. water supply and electricity. There are only 752 units of Railway quarters of different types available at the station whereas the total number of staff of Mechanical, Electrical, Accounts, Stores, Medical and Engineering Departments is in the neighbourhood of 16 000. Out of this total

number for 1,100 workers of all departments, who are residents of the outlying villages, free transport is provided by the Railway by three Workmen's Trains plying between Jamalpur and three Railway stations two of which are situated at a distance of 19 and 15 miles each way and the other at a distance of six miles only

Hospital—A fully equipped hospital including a modern X Ray plant is maintained by the Railway to cater to the needs of the staff. It is in charge of a District Medical Officer who is helped by a qualified staff. The hospital provides for 86 beds and the operation theatre is equipped with modern appliances in view of Jamalpur being an industrial town. The main hospital is situated in ideal environments at the foot of a hill not very close to the Workshop and is efficiently managed. The total annual cost per bed during 1950-51, including charges for supervision was Rs 2 235

Educational Facilities—There are at present four Railway schools run at the cost of the Railway for education of the children of the employees up to the High School standard. The total number of students residing in these four schools is in the vicinity of 1 000. Besides 10 non Railway schools in the area adjoining Jamalpur are receiving annual financial aid from the Railway.

Sports and Pastimes—Besides the two Railway institutes which provide for outdoor and indoor recreations for staff the Jamalpur Sports Association which is a premier sports organisation in the State of Bihar conducts all kinds of sports for its members and holds annual sports meets.

Welfare Organisation—The Welfare Organisation always maintains a personal contact with the workers and settles their grievances quickly with the result that there has not been any major labour trouble in the recent years.

Co-operative Stores—There are two properly registered Co-operative Stores run by the Railway workers one of them was established in 1892 and the other in 1942.

Prohibition—No effective concrete measures are in operation for prohibition in the district. But the prices of excisable articles are raised up. It is expected that because of higher prices a lesser number of people will be consuming the intoxicants. No other effective steps have been taken to bring about prohibition.

Backward Classes

Welfare work for the betterment of the lot of the Backward Classes had been in progress from before but got much more encouragement since 1918 when a separate department for the Backward Classes came into existence to work under the direct control of the District Officer.

All the three categories of the Backward Classes are mentioned below against the district population of 28,49,127—

Scheduled Castes	4,39,977
Scheduled Tribes	56,712
Other Backward Classes	7,74,841
	<hr/> 12,71,530 <hr/>

Thus it will be found that the Backward Classes form 44.6 per cent of the total population of the district

Economic Welfare

Backward Classes' families are mostly landless and hence unable to stand on their own legs. They have to suffer in the absence of resources for making efforts to ameliorate their lots. Even if, somehow or other, land is available, seeds and money are to be procured on credit from the village usurer which again pushes them in the whirl of indebtedness, exploitation, and finally landlessness and living the life of a bondman. Twenty-two grain *golas* have been established to make available to these poverty-stricken people seed on credit and also grain for food in times of scarcity. An interest of 25 per cent is charged and the credit is recovered at the time of the coming harvest. Previously this facility existed only for the Scheduled Tribes but due to subsequent amendment in the Grain Gola Rules, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Class of Annexure I can also get the benefits of these grain *golas*. Now attempts are afoot to link this Grain Golas Scheme with the *Gram Panchayats* and Co-operative Societies in the village.

Agriculture subsidy to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes have also been granted. The maximum amount which can be offered to one individual member of these Backward Classes is Rs 500.

Housing Scheme

Nearly 4,000 acres of *gairmazrua* waste land has been settled with the Scheduled Tribes, Harijans to provide them with land for cultivation as well as abode. Housing schemes have also been sanctioned at an estimated cost of rupees six hundred seventy-four per house. The following are the details of the housing schemes—

Begusarai subdivision—

Ulao	18
Pokharia	3
Ratanpur	5
Jaimangalgarh	17
Gaurabdihi	14

Sadar subdivision—

Lakhisarai	6
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Jamui subdivision—

Kalyanpur	13
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Sweepers Quarters, Monghyr

Quarters for 10 families of sweepers working under the Monghyr Municipality have been constructed by Government

Co operation

Harijan families are being brought in the co-operative fold There are two Harijan Multi purpose Co-operative Societies in Jhajha police station There are Sweepers Credit Co-operative Societies at Monghyr and Khagaria

Loans

Loans under State Aid to Industries Act 1923 have also been advanced to members of the Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes up to a maximum of Rs 500 only for which they have not to offer additional securities except the tools and plants or the materials for which the loans are taken They have been exempted from the payment of stamp duty on the document relating to loans thus secured Subsidy for starting industries under the Cottage Industries Act has also been made available to them

Bihar Privileged Persons' Homestead Tenancy Act, 1947

This Act has conferred the right of acquiring and holding homestead land to the Backward Classes The right and title of tenancy accrues within the space of one year only It also provides for extending legal assistance to these privileged persons free of cost

Educational Welfare

In 1954-55 Government of Bihar sanctioned a scheme for welfare of Paharia Scheduled Tribes who inhabit the hilly region of the district of Santhal Parganas There are four main welfare centres running at present under the scheme namely Baghi in Rajmahal subdivision Parkola in Pakaur subdivision Dhamins in Godda subdivision and Gopi Kandar in Dumka subdivision In Monghyr district also this scheme extends in the areas contiguous to Santhal district in the southern portion The chief items of the programme are —

- (1) Education—establishing Residential Senior Basic School
- (2) Cottage Industries
- (3) supply of paddy through grain golas
- (4) encouraging terrace cultivation piggery poultry farming and tree planting
- (5) improvement of communication and
- (6) provisions of medical and public health facilities

The programme also covers the southern portion of this district contiguous to the Santhal Parganas Santhal Parganas Seva Mandal is the non official executive agency of this programme in Monghyr district

Thakkar Bappa Scheme

Under this scheme 26 primary and one middle schools are being run for the Scheduled Tribes inhabiting two subdivisions of the district. One Industrial Training cum Production Centre is also being run where provision for training in cane work and furniture work exists. Paliariya Seva Mandal, a philanthropic organisation has taken up this work.

Hostels

In order to solve the problem of accommodation of the students of these Backward communities, State Government have sanctioned hostels at the following places for which the expenditure is borne by the Government. Khagaria, Begusarai, Jamui and Jhajha. Usually one Superintendent and one cook are provided to every hostel in addition to the house rent and the cost of utensils are borne by the State Government. Every boarder at the hostel gets a grant of Rs 15 only as well. No seat rent is charged from the students. In addition to these hostels for which buildings have been hired at the abovementioned places, four bigger hostel buildings are going to be built at Monghyr, Khagaria, Barbigha and Jhajha. There is no exclusive reservation to boys of the Backward Classes only. If seats are available, students of other castes are also admitted. The problem of untouchability can be solved by offering opportunities to the so-called high castes students by living together with the students of the Backward Classes.

Stipends and book grants are allowed to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes through the District Stipend Committee, constituted by the State Government for the same purpose for the students reading in middle and secondary schools. Boys reading in colleges are awarded stipends and book grants through the State and Central Stipend Committee also.

Stipends

	Number of students benefited		Amounts awarded	
	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs	Rs
Scheduled Castes ..	1,298	1,733	94,872	1,27,032
Scheduled Tribes .	62	107	7,074	8,976
Backward Classes	342	377	52,720	60,120
Backward Muslims	97	330	17,496	22,320

Book Grants

	Number of students benefited		Amounts awarded	
	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs	Rs
Scheduled Castes	261	260	2 610	2 700
Scheduled Tribes	26	20	210	200
Backward Classes	462	320	3 700	4,100
Backward Muslims	53	69	522	522

Other petty grants to the students of these sections have also been granted

	No of primary students benefited	Amount
		Rs
<i>Petty Grants (1957-58)</i>		
Scheduled Castes	1,959	8,258
<i>Petty Grants (1957-58)</i>		
Scheduled Castes	948	5,867

Medical and Public Health Welfare

Water supply and Public Health—Attempts are being made to provide the facilities of drinking water supply to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and schemes in this connection are executed not only through the Welfare Department but also through Gram Panchayats and the National Extension Service and Community Development Programme. Wells have been sunk from the fund of the Welfare Department. Government contribution to 75 per cent has been made admissible for these works, keeping in view the pecuniary condition of these classes.

Public Health—For bringing medical and health facilities within easy reach to the Scheduled Tribes, three dispensaries have been started at Batia in Jhajha police station, Dullampur in Chakai police station and Barhat in Lakshmipur police station. Every dispensary has got one *Vaidya* who gets grant for purchasing medicines for free distribution in the area.

Social and Cultural Programme.—Bihar Harijan (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1947 was put on the statute book in order to bring all offenders for practising untouchability to book and three prosecutions have been initiated in this district. By now when the above Act has been amended by the Untouchability Offence Act (Central), 1955 the consciousness of the removal of the untouchability is slowly coming in.

Removal of untouchability is essentially a social and cultural problem. Harijan Sewak Sangh, Patna, Mushhar Seva Mandal, Rosera, Darbhanga, Dalit Verga Sangh, Patna are carrying on the programme of social reconstruction and education in this district through their branches in this district. They have been aided financially by the State and Central Governments. Publicity and propaganda for throwing open the temples and removal of untouchability and other social disabilities have been carried on through social *melas*, meetings and films.

Reservation.—Reservation of seats of the representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Parliament, State Legislature, District and Local Boards exists.

The following are the numbers of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes represented through election in them :—

		Scheduled Castes.	Scheduled Tribes.
(1) House of People	..	1	Nil.
(2) State Assembly	..	4	1
(3) District Board	..	2	Nil.

Reservation for representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also have been made in the appointments to III and IV grades services.

Reservation.

		Class of the services.	Percentage seats.
Scheduled Castes	..	III	12½ per cent.
Scheduled Castes	..	IV	28 per cent.
Scheduled Tribes	..	III	2 per cent.
Scheduled Tribes	..	IV	4 per cent.

EX-CRIMINAL TRIBES WELFARE.

Dharhi tribe is known to have a propensity for committing crimes. In Chakai police-station, model housing scheme is going to

be launched for which land has been made available out of the *gair mazarua* waste land. Land for agriculture has also been provided to them. It is expected housing will solve the problem to some extent. Voluntary organisations have not been able to touch the Dharis effectively yet.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

Article 275 of Indian Constitution permits grants in aid out of the consolidated fund of India to be made to a State for undertaking schemes with approval of the Government of India for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. Some welfare schemes are being executed under this programme.

HILL PATH WAYS

Three schemes of Hill Path Ways have also been sanctioned. They are—

	Estimated cost Rs
(1) 26th Mile Sono-Chakai Road to Sirai Sole—2 miles	4,564
(2) Nawadih Batia Road 7th mile to Bewa and Asuta—2½ miles	6,920
(3) Dharahra to Bangalwa—4 miles	9,816

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES.

Public life in this district has attained a high level and the reasons are not far to seek. An incidence of high culture has been present in this district from very early times. In the Chapter on "History" the background in the past has been indicated. From the days of Lord Buddha there is historic evidence of an advanced public life in Monghyr district. Many of the villages of this district and particularly on both the sides of Kiul river were hallowed by Lord Buddha's time. It has been mentioned elsewhere how there were contributions from various sources up to the British period that helped in the development of civic consciousness and public life here.

The advent of the British rule brought in the introduction of occidental education which threw open the flood-gates of fresh thoughts and ideas. The western type of education had brought in a necessary cultural unity and made it possible for certain reformist movements which had a deep influence in the country and particularly in this district.

The Brahmo Samaj of Monghyr was one of them. It was essentially a reformist movement with a broad base of Hindu monotheism and ushered in a social revolution. The Brahmo Samaj insisted on a brotherhood and a liquidation of the caste system, female emancipation, late marriage, remarriage of widows, and inter-marriage between different castes and communities. The gospel that Raja Ram Mohun Roy, the founder of Brahmo Samaj preached was only a new interpretation of what may be described as monotheism of the *Upanishads* and what should be the best in a society of different communities. The great Raja was often mistaken for a Christian as he frequently interpreted the message of Lord Jesus while at the same time he also liberally drew inspiration from the holy *Quran* of the Muslims. He was a virulent opponent of image-worship.

By 1864 branches of the Brahmo Samaj were established at Monghyr and Jamalpur respectively. Sri Keshab Chandra Sen and Sri Raj Narayan Basu came to these places frequently. The Brahmo Mandir at Monghyr has preserved the ashes of Keshab Chandra Sen. Raja Ram Mohun Roy does not appear to have come to Monghyr but his great disciple Keshab Chandra Sen rightly honoured as the *Brahmanand*, or one who is God-intoxicated came to Monghyr, preached there and made Monghyr his second home for some time. He was a great religious reformer and the Brahmo Mandir in Monghyr was built in 1868. Mr. Barlow, the then District Magistrate of Monghyr was approached by Rev. Dinanath

Mazumdar and a plot of land was secured from the Government for establishment of the Brahmo Mandir. This site is just by the side of the Sadar Hospital and the Mandir is still there.

The *bhakti* cult or the faith movement of the Brahmo Samaj that was preached from here spread far and wide in this district. A succession of Brahmo Ministers preached from the pulpit here. Monghyr Brahmo Samaj was very dear to Keshab Chandra Sen and in his later years he repeatedly referred to the inspiration he had from Monghyr and mentioned that at Monghyr he had gone from door to door and was eminently successful in securing a unique position for the Brahmo Samaj. In later years Maharani Sucharu Debi of Mayurbhanj laid the foundation stone for the pilgrims abode at the same place and all important Brahmo festivals for example *Maghotsav*, Raja Ram Mohun Centenary, Keshab Jubilee Celebrations, etc., had been celebrated here.*

The message of the Brahmo Samaj was widely appreciated in the district. A well run library, a night school for the depressed class men and labourers, a lower vernacular school were some of the earliest activities. *Brahmanand* Keshab Chandra Sen visited Monghyr on a number of occasions in the sixties and seventies of the last century. An equally large number of sympathisers was found at Jamalpur where another Brahmo Mandir was built. The Brahmo Mandir at Monghyr still remains while the one at Jamalpur has disappeared. Keshab Chandra Sen lived at a Mahallah at Jamalpur known as Keshabpur after him (Keshopur).

The impact of the Brahmo Samaj was considerable on the public life of Monghyr. For the first time, ladies left their *purdah* and started coming out in the open and sitting and taking part in the *kirtans* (devotional songs), prayers and other social meets. The impact on the society was indeed very great. Community dinners used to be held in which men of the different castes and creeds including those of the depressed and backward community classes participated. The religious fervour of the preachers and adherents of the Brahmo Samaj movement was taken up by other social reformers. One of them was Paribrajak Krishnanand Swami, who as Krishna Prasanna Sen lived in Monghyr working for 12 years as a clerk in the Railway Workshop. He resigned in 1882 and had taken the religious order. He sponsored probably the first Hindi monthly in Bihar when he started editing the bilingual paper in Hindi and Bengali known as "Dharma Pracharak", from Monghyr in 1874. Krishna Prasanna Sen was given *diksha* at the Kastaharini Ghat by Mahatma Dayal Das Swami of the Punjab. Krishnanand had caught the religious fervour of Keshab Chandra Sen and others and his great oratory was an asset. Hearing his speech in the Monghyr Hospital in 1875 Rev. Mr. Evans had exclaimed "Had I had your eloquence I would have christianised the world in a day." At Monghyr he

* Maharani Sucharu Debi was the daughter of *Brahmanand* Keshab Chandra Sen.

laid the foundation of the movement which was described by Indu Prakash of Bombay as "Preaching a sort of new religion like our Tukaram and Ramdas of by-gone days". In 1875 he established at Monghyr the first of a net work of over 500 such *Dharmasabhas* founded later throughout the Northern India. The same *Dharma Sabha* founded by Krishnanand Swami is still in existence in Monghyr Sanskrit College. He was very keen on *Hari Kirtans* and *Hari Sabhas* for religious discourses. The *Hari Sabha* in Jamalpur which is still in existence owes its origin to him. The *Hari Sabha* at Jamalpur is now a nucleus of *kirtans* and social meets. It houses a girls' school as well. The *Hari Sabhas* bring people of different castes together.

The influence of the Christians on the public life in this district has also been considerable. The Christian missionaries in the nineteenth century particularly made themselves a part and parcel of the public life in Monghyr. Some of the early Christians were Hindi Poets. John Christian* of Bongaon wrote out a number of remarkable lyrical *Bhajans* in Hindi which are still known and current as *John Saheb Ka Bhajan*. Another man of Monghyr, Nain Sukh, also composed some Hindi *Bhajans* which are current in the Churches now. John Parsons, a Padre whose grave is in Monghyr also wrote out a number of hymns. Rev. Carey at Serampur had translated the whole of Bible in Hindi by the end of 1819. Carey's translation, however, was rather heavy and had to be re-done which John Parsons was supposed to have done. His grave in the graveyard of Monghyr mentions that he had translated the Bible in Hindi.

Along with the Christian missionaries, a mention may be made of a large number of European families that were prominent citizens of Monghyr town up to the third decade of the twentieth century. Many of them greatly contributed to the public life of Monghyr. One of them Mr. Herschell Deer as mentioned elsewhere had helped in advancing the civic life of Monghyr in various ways through his liberal donations. The Sadar Hospital at Monghyr practically owes its origin to Herschell Deer. The remnants of the family of Deer are still there in the Murrays, the Amblers and the Dewars. Besides there were the families known as the Christians, the Scots, the Aguilars and other families. Scattered about in the district were a number of European gentlemen farmers. It should not be true to say that they had no contribution to the formation of public life in this district.

There is always a field for the propagation of parallel or even apparently opposite religious movements. One such was the Arya Dharma Pracharini Sabha as mentioned above founded under the leadership of Sri Krishna Prasanna Sen. In 1875 he and Shayama Charan Bhattacharya established the *Hari Sabha* and *Sumiti Pracharini*

* John Christian was one of the better known Indigo Planters of Monghyr district and the family is well remembered.

Sabha at Jamalpur Krishna¹Prasanna had also set up at Monghyr a *Sanatan Dharma Sabha* as counterpoise to the Brahmo Samaj. Krishna Prasanna¹shifted his headquarters to Varanasi in 1882 and his school of¹disciples were merged¹in the broader school of the reformist¹Hindu movement. Swami Ram Krishna Paramhansa had visited Monghyr a few years before his ascension and there are at the moment hundreds of adherents of Swami Ram Krishna Paramhansa and his great disciple Swami Vivekananda.

Another religio-social institution that has a great contribution to the public life in Monghyr district is the Arya Samaj Movement. Swami Dayanand Saraswati came to Monghyr, Jamalpur and Bhagalpur between 1872 to 1873 and held religious discourses. His visit was followed sometime after by the visit of the renowned Arya Samaji, Pandit Lekhram. In 1897 the Arya Samaj was established as a separate organisation and later on its branches were set up at Jamalpur, Khagaria, Gogri, Kharagpur, Haveli and other places. Like the Brahmo pioneers, the Arya Samaji leaders also suffered a lot because of their advanced views on society and religion. The Gogri Arya Samaj was burnt to ashes in 1919. But the movement went on and was nursed by other Pandits like Swami Nityanand, Swami Vishweshwaranand and others. This organisation took up the removal of untouchability, social distinctions and illiteracy.

The *Sabha* had also taken up Santhal uplift work. The Arya Samaj also works towards reconversion of people into Hindu fold. The office of the Arya Upa Pratinidhi Sabha for Bhagalpur division established in 1939 is housed in the Arya Samaj temple at Monghyr.

This body runs some social service institutions¹like orphanages, literary and Sanskrit *pathshalas*. At present the *Samaj* has seven branches¹at Monghyr, Jamalpur, Khagaria, Kharagpur, Barbiga, Sheikhpura and Sikandra.

Public life has also had a great contribution from the Theosophical Society, a branch of which was opened at Monghyr by Sri Vaidyanath Basu, the first Principal of the Diamond Jubilee College in 1890 at Monghyr. Among other pioneers were Sri Chhedil Prasad Choudhury and Pandit Hari Mohan Mishra. The Monghyr Theosophical Society is affiliated to the Bihar Branch with headquarters at Patna.

Mention has particularly been made of these broad based institutions with an all India appeal that had worked in Monghyr in the nineteenth century. The impact of these institutions and movements was insidious and by a process of osmosis as it were helped in conglomerating the different factors and creating a healthy public life. As a result there were a few other social and political movements which became prominent. One such was the annual Bihar Students' Conference established in 1906. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, had a large hand in shaping the

Bihari Students' Conference, (*Sammelan*) and most of the leaders of Bihar in our present times had their share in this movement in some way or other. The annual session in 1913 was held at Monghyr presided over by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The Chairman of the Reception Committee was Sri Radhika Prasad Singh, the elder brother of the present Chief Minister of Bihar. The Kayastha Association in the early decades of the twentieth century was another institution that drew a large number of adherents. Some of the annual Kayastha Conferences were held in different parts of Bihar and there were always a number of delegates from Monghyr. The Kayastha Association took up social reforms as their main objective. All these factors helped in developing a political consciousness in the people of the district.

Any story of the development of the political consciousness in the district is difficult to be kept purely objective. It may, however, be broadly mentioned that the Swadeshi Movement of Bengal in 1905 had its great repercussion on this district. Monghyr along with a few other districts in Bihar contributed their share in some way or other to the great Swadeshi Movement where people had dedicated themselves and played with fire and bomb. A number of political leaders of Bihar in our times, drew their inspiration from this movement as students. Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha who comes from Monghyr is fond of repeating his experience in dragging Surendra Nath Banerji's carriage along with other students when Surendra Nath was released from the jail. The cult of agitation that Surendra Nath Banerji preached in Monghyr in 1906 exhorting the people to boycott foreign goods had borne its effect long after. The political philosophy that Sri Aurovindo Ghosh propagated has had its impact on Bihar in Monghyr district as well. Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha from the very beginning of his political career has always appealed to the people to base their political enthusiasm on a religious basis. The fervour of Sri Krishna Sinha's Political Philosophy has the background of some of the factors mentioned.

The district branch of the Indian National Congress was formed much later but the hold of the Congress on public life has been there since very early years. It has to be mentioned that though Bihar was a part of the old province of Bengal and separated only in 1911, the Congress had a separate office on an all-Bihar basis even before 1911. The Bihar Provincial Political Conference used to meet annually since 1908. The annual session of the Provincial Political Conference was held in 1927 at Monghyr with Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the President. Most of the leaders of the Bihar Provincial Political Conference were Congress men. The Home Rule Movement in 1917 got great support from the people of Monghyr and the leader of this movement in the district was Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, the present Chief Minister of Bihar.

Then came the Non Co-operation Movement followed by Civil Disobedience, Quit India Agitation and the uprising in 1942—all in quick succession and under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi had already prepared Bihar by his non-violent struggle against the European Indigo Planters of Champaran in 1916. The people of Bihar including those of Monghyr district very readily rallied round Gandhi. The storm centres of this movement through different phases throughout under Dr Sri Krishna Sinha and others were Monghyr, Jamui, Begusarai, Tarapur etc. Gandhi visited Monghyr in 1920 and carried the public life of Monghyr practically in his pocket. The non-co-operation programme of the Congress had received a popular response in this district.

A corollary of the Congress movement was the setting up of National Schools throughout the province and Monghyr had about eight of them. The Bihar *Vidyapith* at Sadakat Ashram Patna had a number of students from this district. The school at Lakhisarai was converted into Chittaranjan Ashram and was inaugurated by Gandhi in 1927.

There was a great upsurge in 1930 when the Salt Satyagraha movement was launched. The fear-complex of the sturdy people of Monghyr was substantially liquidated. Villages like Carhpura Majhaur, Rajauna, Barahia were the scenes of the Salt Satyagraha. The lead was taken by Dr Sri Krishna Sinha at Carhpura. Arrests and imprisonments were the order of the day but the upsurge could not be crushed. This was evident in the demonstration on firings at Begusarai in 1931, Barahia in 1932 and at other places. During 1932-33 alone about one thousand persons are said to have courted arrest. A fine of Rs 75,000 was imposed on people of Barahia alone. Individual Satyagraha programme was also implemented in the district. In 1935 the office of the District Congress Committee was opened at Tilak Maidan in Monghyr. This was followed by the fourth district political conference at Begusarai.

The political upsurge that was being formulated through the storm and stress of the previous years found its echo in 1935 when the new elections were held for the Central Assembly and the State Assembly. Dr Sri Krishna Sinha was elected and became the first Chief Minister of Bihar when the Congress Party won the majority of the seats. The fifth district political conference was held in 1937 under the presidency of Sreemati Sarojini Naidu. The *thana* political conferences were organised in various parts of the district during 1937-1939 under leaders like Prof. Abdul Bari, Dr Sayyad Mahmood, Sri Jaiprakash Narayan etc.

The non-co-operation movement was essentially a movement led by the villagers. The villagers were made to feel that they were the people who counted as much as the intellectuals and being in the majority they had a bigger voice in shaping the administration.

A separate but closely associated movement was the *Kishan Mazdur Andolan*. In 1936 the District Congress Committee had constituted a committee consisting of Sri Karyanand Sharma, Sri Nand Kumar Singh and Sri Mahanth Ramswaroop Das to work amongst the peasants. In 1922-23 a separate but allied organisation known as the Kishan Sabha was founded in the district and a Kishan Conference (*Sammelan*) was organised at Kharagpur. Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, Karyanand Sharma and others actively participated in this movement directed essentially against the zamindars. The movement was the forerunner of the different parties known later as the Socialists or Communists. The Kishan movement had also been marked by sporadic cases of bloodshed and splits.

The labour front with the thousands of Jamalpur Workshop and Tobacco Factory workers could not be neglected. The labour wing of the Congress Party, however, could not remain the exclusive mentor of the labour movement and the Communist and other parties managed to establish their hold on groups of the labourers. A number of unions were organised, affiliated to different political parties. Want of unity is a characteristic feature of the labour unions.

The evolution of ideas of local self-government through municipalities, district boards and other autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies has been traced in a separate chapter. The electoral role has been broad-based and enlarged from time to time. The basic idea was to introduce the people to self-government with the ultimate object of taking up the reins of larger administration. The object has been partially fulfilled and there can be no doubt that these autonomous bodies have helped in contributing largely to the growth of public life. They have also been the training ground for many of our present day political leaders. The elections have become a part and parcel of the public life from the remote villages to the district headquarters.

The set up of the administration before 1947 was essentially that of a Police State and it is an anomaly that the police constable was the link between the administrator and the common man. It was the red-turbaned constable or the blue-uniformed *chowkidar* that commanded the biggest awe from the villagers. They were the collecting agency for information required by the Magistrate at the headquarters. This created a gap and the gap was partially bridged by the district board and the other autonomous local self-government institutions in the district.

Public life was largely affected and enlivened by the process of decentralisation of power that is going on since 1947. The development is seen in the Village *Panchayats* and the working of the *Anchal* administrations.

That the aroused political and civic consciousness is not capable of being blindly canalised is amply shown by the fact that although in 1959 the district boards were merged in the Government there has not been much of agitation. The electorates had realised that all was not well with the administration of the district board. The election fervour has not, however, blotted out the original village reconstruction work so dear to Gandhiji. There are several village centres where selfless workers, belonging to Congress or other school of thoughts are working. One of them is the Sevagram about four miles from Jamalpur where orthodox Gandhism is fully implemented. The Khadi and Village Industries Board with a non-official Chairman is rekindling the work throughout the district. In a conference of all the Block Development Officers of Bhagalpur Division, held at Monghyr in September, 1959 Sri Mahesh Prasad Sinha, the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Board, had mentioned that the revival of the village industries had given occupation to a very large number of villagers and Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, the Chief Minister, had specially asked the Block Development Officers to be absolutely village-minded in their thoughts and deeds.

Among the political parties the first mention has, of course, to go to the Indian National Congress Party. The election results which have been treated separately show that the majority of the persons elected belong to the Congress Party. Other political parties like the Praja Socialist Party, Communist Party, Forward Bloc, Rastriya Swayam Sevak Party and Hindu Mahasabha have also their adherents within the district.

The Praja Socialist Party earlier known as the Socialist Party, had separated itself from the Congress and at one time had a considerable influence in the district. Sri Jaiprakash Narayan was the leader of the party for a pretty long time and he had visited the district in 1946 and 1948 and put the party on a solid basis. A large number of meetings in different parts of the district were addressed by him. The Railway Union at Jamalpur is controlled by this party. It may be remembered that the party is now practically run by men who belonged to the Congress Party at some time or other.

The Communist Party has been able to gain a certain amount of influence in this district in the recent years. Some of the other parties that had a hold in the district some time or other have now declined. The Kishan Sabha as such does not exist now. The Muslim League has also been liquidated after India became independent. The Rastriya Swayam Sevak Party had organised itself on a very wide scale in the district and had a branch at every *thana*. But after the death of Mahatma Gandhi this party was declared illegal and is now a defunct organisation. It may be mentioned that 116 members of this party were arrested in this district while the number of the arrested persons for the whole State was 595. In the

forties of this century the Khaksar Party had been organised as a militant body composed of Mohammadans. The Khaksar Party has also been liquidated.

"The fact remains that at the present moment the Congress is the best organised political party in the district. The Congress Party fought the last two elections and the majority of the members elected from this district either to the State legislatures or to the Parliamentary bodies at the Centre are from the Congress Party."

Regarding the newspapers and periodicals, mention has already been made that probably this district claims to be the pioneer of journalism in Hindi. The Monthly Bilingual (Hindi-Bengali) *Dharma Pracharak* was edited from Monghyr in 1874 by Swami Krishnanand. The paper was published from Monghyr in 1874 for several years and then the office was shifted to Banaras.

At the present time there are only two Hindi Weekly newspapers published in the district. One is *Sachchi Baat*, and the other is *Dalit Mitra*. There is also a monthly Hindi paper named *Sarvodaya Sandesh*. All these papers have a local circulation. *Sachchi Baat* is in the form of a weekly newsletter and about one thousand copies of it are widely read. It is understood that about five hundred copies of *Dalit Mitra* are printed. The monthly paper *Sarvodaya Sandesh* is published by the Sarvodaya organisation and mostly contains the news and views pertaining to Sarvodaya movement. The two Patna English dailies, the *Searchlight* and the *Indian Nation* have a good circulation throughout the district. The Calcutta papers that have a good sale are the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Statesman* and the *Hindustan Standard*. Among the English weeklies and periodicals that have some sale mention may be made of *Blitz*, the *Illustrated Weekly*, *Shankar's Weekly*, the *Careers* and *Courses*. The Hindi dailies that come in the district are the *Atyavarta*, the *Pradeep*, the *Aaj*, the *Navarashtra* from Patna. The paper *Vishwamitra* from Banaras has also some sale. The Hindi periodicals *Dharmayuga*, *Hindusthan*, *Maya*, *Manohar*, *Manorama*, *Chunnu-munoo* (for the children) have a good sale.

Among the Urdu dailies the *Seyasat-e-Jadid* and *Sada-e-Am* are popular. The two Bengali dailies of Calcutta *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Yugantar* have also a good sale. It is rather a hazard to give the circulation number as no authoritative figures are available. The Patna dailies, English and Hindi, have naturally more sale than the dailies in English and Hindi published from elsewhere.

For the moulding of public life the newspapers have certain responsibility. In the recent years newspapers are becoming very popular and great responsibility lies on the management and policy of the Hindi newspapers that circulate in the district.

Educational institutions have had their share in moulding public life in the district. There has been a rapid spread of schools and

colleges throughout the district and it has been possible for thousands of students in the villages to receive college education within a few miles of their villages. The rapid growth of the schools and colleges throughout the district as well as in other parts of the State has not been an unmixed good. Unemployment problem has been made extremely acute and there has been a marked growth of sense of indiscipline among the students. It is not necessary here to analyse the background but all that has to be said is that the student indiscipline and indecorum has been marring good public life. Some of the observations of Dr Zakir Husain, Governor of Bihar, in his Convocation speech at Utkal University in December, 1959 could very well be quoted in this connection —

“The licence they deem it appropriate to allow themselves, in what they do and what they leave undone, the uncontrolled obsessions, distractions, and dissipations of which these angry young men give frequent evidence, seem to indicate that there is nothing and no one that commands their respect, no higher value that can claim to have their acceptance, no objective standards to moderate their uncontrolled subjective urges, no individual thinking to keep explosive mass hysteria in check, easy to offend, easy to be manoeuvred into awkward and desperate situations by unscrupulous exploiters of youthful immaturity and carrying all the while as it were in their heads some stuff with a very low boiling point”

This sense of indiscipline is frequently seen in fracas for very petty reasons, travelling without ticket in the railway trains and buses and indecorous behaviour towards others, etc. There is no reason to think that this is not a passing phase and much depends on the teachers and the local authorities as well as the parents to make the students conscious of their obligations as well as of their rights.

The bench and the bar have also had their impact on the growth of public life. The members of the bar have been the natural leaders till very recently and the Monghyr bar has been well known for scholarship, dignity and advocacy. There has been an excellent relationship between the bench and the bar in this district. There is a deep regard for the judiciary. It is fully realised that the Courts of Justice have a constitutional role to play in a democratic system and that they have to uphold day in and day out the rule of law. The prestige and authority of the Courts of Justice remain unimpaired and this feeling is a great factor in the public life of the district. In a democratic form of Government there need be a system of checks and balances and the judiciary helps to develop the standards of public behaviour in a democratic State. The Bar helps the Bench in this great task.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Like other districts of the State of Bihar, the first General Election held on the basis of adult franchise—a unique feature and a new experiment in the political history of India took place in 1952 in the district of Monghyr

Previously in public representation either in any local bodies or in any assembly or council the restrictions of property, tax educational qualification and communities, etc., were responsible for low percentage of voters. The franchise in Monghyr district by the Act of 1935 was not more than 10 per cent which is the all India figure *. Adult franchise, the great feature of 1952 election provided equal opportunities for men and women. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes to exercise their right of casting votes and be equal to others along with others in the scheme of electing their representatives. It is not necessary to enter here if the State or the country was advanced enough for this very great stride in awaking public consciousness to civic rights. It has been a great experiment.

General Election of 1952

Legislative Assembly—In the 1952 General Election there were 20 constituencies for Bihar Vidhan Sabha out of which four were plural and 16 were single constituencies. The political parties that participated in the election for the 24 seats were of all India character. 22 Independent candidates contested the 16 Assembly seats with no result. The result of the 1952 General Election with regard to the Assembly seats is given at the close of the chapter.

Parliamentary Seats—In the General Election of 1952 the following were the three Parliamentary constituencies in the district of Monghyr —

- (1) Monghyr Sadar cum Jamui
- (2) Monghyr North West
- (3) Monghyr North East

Monghyr Sadar-cum Jamui was a double member constituency for which six candidates belonging to Congress Socialist Party Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party and one Independent contested. Both the seats general and reserved were captured by Congress.

Monghyr North West was a single member constituency for which only three candidates one each of Congress Socialist and Communist Parties contested and Congress got this seat also. But in the Monghyr North East Parliamentary constituency there was a direct fight between Congress and Socialist Party. The Socialist Party bagged this seat.

* *An Advanced History of India* by R. C. Mazumdar H. C. Roy Chaudhury and K. K. Dutta p. 925

A list of the details of this election may be seen at Table 2 of this chapter at the close.

1957 General Election. The Second General Election was held in 1957 on the basis of the electoral rolls made in 1952. These electoral rolls had undergone necessary changes because of previous omissions, casualties and additions of those who had come under the age-group.

There is one election office at the district headquarters with its subordinate subdivisional election offices at the subdivisional headquarters whose duty is to keep up-to-date electoral rolls of their respective jurisdictions. On the basis of this electoral roll, the second General Election was held during 1957.

Parliamentary and assembly constituencies were delimited afresh in 1956 on the basis of latest census figures of 1951 under the provisions in Articles 82 and 170 (3) of the Constitution. For the civil district of Monghyr there was provision for 20 constituencies for Bihar Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) in 1952 which became 18 for 1957 Election. The parliamentary constituencies were also delimited and their areas were as follows :—

- (1) *Monghyr Parliamentary Constituency.*—Jamui subdivision and Monghyr subdivision (excluding Jamalpur Municipality and Chaukidari Unions nos. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 in Monghyr Mofussil Police-Station) of Monghyr district; and Asthawan Police-Station in Bihar subdivision and Sermera Police-Station in Barh subdivision of Patna district.
- (2) *Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency.*—Khagaria subdivision, Chaukidari Unions nos. 1, 2, 11 and 12 in Bakhari Police-Station in Begusarai subdivision and Jamalpur Municipality and Chaukidari Unions nos. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 in Monghyr Mofussil Police-Station in Monghyr Sadr subdivision of Monghyr district.
- (3) *Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency.*—Begusarai subdivision (excluding Chaukidari Unions nos. 1, 2, 11 and 12 in Bakhari Police-Station) of Monghyr district.

Monghyr Parliamentary Constituency has certain area within the Patna district also.

The number of seats in the Lok Sabha was the same. This time Monghyr was a plural constituency.

1957 Assembly Election.—As indicated, there were 18 assembly constituencies, out of which five were plural and 13 were single member constituencies. Out of the five protected constituencies one in each for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, in Jamui one

seat was reserved for one Scheduled Tribe candidate, and the remaining four were reserved for Scheduled Caste members. This time the contest was for 23 seats, although the number of constituencies had decreased by two. This time, as before, Congress, Praja Socialist Party, Communists, and Independents were the main contestants and Janata, Jan Sangh and Jharkhand were contesting in few seats. In all 31 Independents contested 16 seats. Out of all these Independent candidates Teghria Assembly seat was won by one Independent candidate. Out of all these 23 seats, 18 seats were captured by Congress, two by Communists, two by Praja Socialist Party and one by Independent candidate. The details of this election have been furnished in a tabular form in Table 3.

It may be observed here that the revised delimitation of constituencies has brought about certain significant changes in the electoral colleges. It would be evident from the above note that the Monghyr Parliamentary Constituency has taken two police-stations of Patna district. With regard to State Assembly the number of seats has been reduced by one and that of constituencies by two and the number of double member constituencies has been raised by one, creating a new seat for Scheduled Tribe at Jhajha. The number of seats for the Scheduled Caste has been left intact, although there has been some changes in the constituencies. The number of general seats has been slashed down by two, one being given to Scheduled Tribe and the other deleted.

Parliamentary Election of 1957.—After delimitation as discussed before, in the three Parliamentary Constituencies for four seats 12 candidates contested for the seats. For Monghyr double member constituency three Independents, two Congress and two Praja Socialist Party candidates were the contestants. Both the seats were captured by the Congress candidates. In Khagaria one Praja Socialist Party, one Congress and one Independent candidates were the contestants and here also Congress won the seat. In Begusarai the fight was direct between Congress and the Praja Socialist Party and the Congress candidate got the seat.

Further details of these elections have been given at the close of this chapter in Table 4.

From the results of the 1957 General Election for Parliamentary seats it seems that for Monghyr Parliamentary Constituency the total votes polled against Congress were greater than the votes polled in its favour. The winners of both the seats had polled only 22.7 per cent and 25.4 per cent of the total votes polled. But in Khagaria and Begusarai Parliamentary Constituencies the votes in favour of Congress were greater than the combined votes polled against.

So far the analysis of the votes cast for the Assembly representatives are concerned, in more than half of the constituencies the votes

polled against Congress were greater in number than the votes polled in its favour excepting in the Tarapur, Sheikhupura, Kharagpur, Monghyr, Parbatta, Chautham, Bakhtiarpur and Bariarpur constituencies. As a party the Socialist Party had faded away from the arena. The K M P P of 1952 had become P S P in 1957 and besides setting up candidates for 19 Assembly seats and for the four Parliamentary seats, fought the election and secured two Assembly seats. The tendency of the common mass also was to vote for any party instead of supporting any Independent candidate. One Independent, who came out successful from Teghra constituency was an ex Minister. The Communist Party in the district of Monghyr had made considerable headway during the interval of five years, although the net result was not very encouraging for them.

From the figures it is clear that the common voter had realised the importance of party system in the democratic set up of Government and he is not willing to back Independents, who work on their own. It is significant that two ladies on Congress ticket were also elected. But on the whole it has to be admitted that this is a poor beginning. The backbone of the society is the women folk and the incidence of education among them so far is not very high. The responsibility is that of the men folk. The number of women exercising their franchise was small.

TABLE I
1952 Assembly General Election

Name of Constituencies	Number of seats	Number of candidates		Number of electors	Total number of valid votes polled.	Percent age of col 7 to col 6	Party affiliations	Number of votes polled by candidates	Percent age of col 10 to col 7
		Total	Contesting						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11
Kharegpur	1	0	5	37 608	37 608	22 802	60.53 Congress	0 357	41.03
							K M P P	0 279	27.53
							Socialist	5 002	21.03
							Independent	1 548	6.78
							Ditto	610	2.70
Tarapur	1	0	4	32 175	32 175	20 100	62.65 Congress	9 757	48.39
							Socialist	5 251	20.04
							K M P P	3 840	19.03
							Independent	1 312	6.50
Jamnagar Town	1	7	4	38 410	38 410	33 074	86.07 Congress	11 850	51.35
							Socialist	6 950	27.08
							Jan Sangh	3 271	14.17
							K M P P	1 703	7.38

Name of Constituencies.	Number of candidates.							Total number of valid votes polled.	Percent- age of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party, affiliations.	Number of votes polled by candidates.	Percent- age of col. 10 to col. 7.
	Number of seats.	Total. Contesting.										
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Monghyr Town ..	1	8	4	64,873	64,873	33,191	51.16	Congress	15,757	47.47		
								K. M. P. P. ..	7,677	23.15		
								Socialist ..	5,606	10.88		
								Jan Sangh ..	4,151	12.50		
								Congress ..	23,380	22.50		
								Ditto ..	22,537	21.68		
								Socialist ..	19,207	18.48		
								Ditto ..	16,515	15.89		
								Communist ..	8,230	7.82		
								Ditto ..	7,477	7.19		
								Independent ..	6,560	6.31		
								Congress ..	9,405	50.48		
								Socialist ..	3,777	22.75		
								Independent ..	3,648	19.58		
								K. M. P. P. ..	1,160	6.28		
								Independent ..	638	3.38		
Sumgarha-cum-Lakhi- sarai	3	10	7	1,00,595	2,01,190	1,03,906	51.84					
Jhajha ..	1	8	5	43,585	43,585	18,623	42.71					

Name of Constituencies.	Number of seats.	Number of candidates.					Total number of valid votes polled.	Percent- age of col 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliations.	Number of votes polled by candidates.	Percent- age of col. 10 to col. 7.
		Total.	Contest- ing.	Number of electors.	Total number of votes.	Number of valid votes polled.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Baniapur ..	1	5	4	38,014	38,014	21,752	56.07	Socialist ..	11,283	51.87	
								Congress ..	7,447	34.23	
								Independent ..	1,071	7.08	
								Ditto ..	1,351	0.21	
Bachwara ..	1	4	3	41,272	41,272	22,062	54.91	Congress ..	8,058	38.20	
								Socialist ..	7,510	33.15	
								Independent ..	6,494	28.60	
Teghra ..	1	4	4	38,085	38,085	18,904	49.94	Congress ..	11,238	59.31	
								Jan Sangh ..	3,667	19.35	
								F. B. (Marxist)	2,250	11.88	
								Socialist ..	1,749	9.22	
Begusarai North ..	1	9	4	31,715	31,715	15,929	50.85	Congress ..	9,430	59.2	
								Socialist ..	2,826	17.61	
								U. K. Sabha ..	1,891	11.87	
								Independent ..	1,782	11.13	

Number of Constituencies	Number of candidates						Total number of valid votes pollcd	Percent age of col. 7 to col. 6	Party affiliations	Number of votes pollcd by candidates	Percent age of col. 10 to col. 7
	Number of seats	Total Contest- ing	Number of voters	Total number of votes	3	4					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Gogri	1	11	8	39,794	55,731	21,863	49.4	Socialist	8,104	37.17	
								Congress	6,634	30.34	
								Independent	2,121	9.71	
								Ditto	1,644	7.51	
								Ditto	1,601	7.32	
								Ditto	743	2.39	
								Ditto	437	2.37	
								Ditto	426	1.95	
Parbatia	1	9	4	42,797	12,737	21,617	57.12	Socialist	9,133	38.34	
								Congress	8,581	34.85	
								Independent	5,694	23.13	
								Ditto	303	1.60	

TABLE III.
1957 General Election.

Name of Constituencies.	Number of seats.	Number of candidates.					Total number of votes.	Total number of valid votes polled.	Percent- age of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliations.	Number of votes polled.	Percent- age of col. 10 to col. 7.
		Total	Contesting after retirement.		Number of electors.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Monghyr	..	2	7	7	0,53,080	1,16,172	0,63,987	50 40	Independent ..	..	20,325	..
					3,93,972 M				Congress	..	1,50,021	22.7
					2,64,114 F				Independent ..	..	52,818	..
Khagaria									P. S. P.	..	1,20,579	..
									Ditto	..	1,14,445	..
									Congress	..	1,08,397	25.4
Begusarai									Independent ..	..	36,802	..
		1	4	3	3,63,573	3,63,573	2,05,000	56 50	P. S. P.	..	32,748	15 0
					1,98,254 M				Congress	..	1,21,677	59.4
					1,65,319 F				Independent ..	..	50,575	24.7
	..	1	3	2	4,02,037	4,02,037	2,17,368	54 00	Congress	..	1,13,294	52.1
					2,23,734 M				P. S. P.	..	1,04,074	47.0
					1,78,303 F							

Name of Constituencies,	Number of candidates.		Number of seats.	Contest- ing		Total votes.	Total number of valid votes polled.	Percent- age of col. 7 to col. 8	Party affiliations.	Number of valid votes polled.	Percent- age of col. 10 to col. 11
	Total.	Contest- ing		Number of electors.	Number of votes.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Sheikhpura ..	2	4	4	1,17,803 09,456 M 48,347 F	2,35,606	1,30,095	57 70	Congress .. Communist .. Ditto .. Congress ..	40,847 26,219 26,016 12,113	30,10 19,30 19,70 30,90	
Burhee ..	1	5	3	43,019 29,617 M 14,002 F	43,619	20,229	50 50	P. S. P. .. Independent . Congress	12,243 3,704 10,222	40,90 14,20 38,90	
Suraigharha ..	1	3	3	65,062 37,188 M 27,874 F	65,062	38,455	59 10	Independent Communist Congress	3,450 19,147 15,858	9,10 49 70 41,20	
Chantham ..	1	4	3	54,549 31,577 M 22,992 F	54,549	31,614	58 00	P S P. Congress .. Independent ..	6,685 20,283 4,690	21,10 64 00 14 90	

Bakhtnagar	..	1	5	3	62,573	62,573	41,013	67,500	Congress	..	21,337	59 30
					30,045 M				P. S. P.	..	9,407	22.90
					32,028 F				Independent	..	7,269	17 80
Khangaria	..	2	13	10	1,20,787	2,41,574	1,10,747	45 53	Congress	..	27,153	24.70
					68,799 M				Communist	..	9,132	8 20
					51,988 F				Ditto	..	8,087	7.30
									Independent	..	3,348	3 00
									P. S. P.	..	7,372	6.60
									Independent	..	5,645	5.10
									P. S. P.	..	6,363	5.70
									Independent	..	8,607	7.30
									Ditto	.	10,834	9 70
Daha	..	1	0	4	71,221	71,221	32,923	45 24	Congress	..	21,808	22 40
					38,199 M				Jan Sangh	..	5,640	17.80
					33,022 F				P. S. P.	..	8,183	25 20
									Independent	.	3,210	9 90
									Congress	..	15,190	47.00
Begusarai	..	2	4	4	1,31,177	2,02,354	1,47,074	50 28	Communist	..	31,691	21.27
					75,374 M				Congress	..	39,519	20.99
					55,823 F				Communist	..	37,791	25.50
									Congress	.	38,673	20 18

Name of Constituencies	Number of seats	Number of candidates											Percent age of col 10 to col 7.
		Total	Contest ing	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Tarapur	1	0	6	60,161	00,161	32,065	53 20	Independent	1,373	4 20			
				32,390 M				Ditto	2,474	8 00			
				27,771 F				Ditto	5,013	15 60			
								Congress	16,878	52 50			
								P S P	4,000	15 50			
								Janta	1,321	4 20			
Kharagpur	1	4	4	66,699	66,699	33,756	50 00	Independent	3,378	10 00			
				37,194 M				P S P	7,513	23 10			
				29,505 F				Independent	4,257	12 80			
								Congress	18,308	54 20			
Monghyr	1	7	5	61,957	61,957	33,030	56 50	Independent	562	1 60			
				33,978 M				P S P	2,679	7 90			
				27,979 F				Congress	18,988	54 20			
								Jan Sangh	8,171	23 10			
								Independent	4,630	13 20			

Jamainpur	1	5	3	1,755	54,715	31,663	1780	Congress	15619	4750
				29530 M			P S P		7,837	2180
				25,223 F			Independent		9,767	2770
Parbatta	1	9	5	70969	70909	10666	5730	Independent	3,171	776
				39624 M			Congress		22,270	5170
				31,895 F			Independent		5,566	1306
							Ditto		667	256
							Ditto		8693	2135
Bariaurpur	1	4	4	60591	60591	35,662	5916	P S P	13,466	3776
				32,567 M			Congress		16,123	5356
				29,027 F			Independent		1,911	546
							Yan Sanph		1,278	530
Teghra	1	4	4	62,960	62,906	36,993	5881	Independent	1,266	346
				33,663 M			Ditto		1,066	270
				29,237 F			Ditto		19,693	5336
							Congress		15,028	4666
Bachwara	1	6	5	76,145	76,115	35,573	4671	Congress	13,246	3736
							Independent		1,213	346
							Ditto		2,834	790
							Ditto		2,354	676
							P S P		15,926	4470

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION

The social service aspect of the organisations like the Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj and the Theosophical Society has already been indicated. Towards the end of 1959 the social service activities of the Brahmo Samaj and the Theosophical Society in Monghyr district are rather on a decadent. There are other social service movements which are of recent origin and may be mentioned here.

The Bharat Sewak Samaj was evolved on an all India basis to enlist public cooperation in translating into reality the concept of the Welfare State. A branch of the organisation was opened in Monghyr district in 1954. There are several committees consisting of officials and non officials to implement the various items in the programme of the organisation. Some of the official members are the representatives of the District Magistrate, the District Agricultural Officer, the District Animal Husbandry Officer, the Assistant Registrars of Co-operatives of Monghyr and Begusarai, the Assistant Public Relations Officers of Monghyr and Begusarai, the District Education Officer, the Special Officer of the Monghyr District Board, the District Employment Officer, etc. These officers on the committee help the organisation by issuing instructions to their subordinates to help the Bharat Sewak Samaj in implementing its schemes. The Bharat Sewak Samaj has opened certain Lok Kalyan Kshetras (Welfare Centres) at Barauni, Lakshmipur, Jamui, Surajgarha, Sitalpur and Parbatta. Out of them the Centre at Barauni is on the approved list of the Government as well as the Central Bharat Sewak Samaj and has been sanctioned a sum of Rs 5,000 to execute the work for a period of three years. The chief items of work for the villages consist of sanitation and public works. Public works schemes cover construction and maintenance of village paths, wells, pynes, etc., with the voluntary labour of its members. A pledge is to be given by every member of the Samaj to give six hours' service to the Samaj in a week or one hour every day for executing the objective of the institution. In the urban areas the Samaj has also taken up the work of rooting out corruption from offices and other establishments.

Bhoodan Movement

Bhoodan movement was started in the district of Monghyr in the year 1952, when the founder of the movement, Sant Vinoba, came to the district and spent about two months. He camped at 48 places and delivered sermons. His mission is to get lands from the land-owners and to distribute them to the landless.

In the district of Monghyr there were 12,309 donors from 2,203 villages. They have donated an area of 27,445 acres to the organisation. Of the total donated land, 6,028 acres have already been distributed amongst 4,688 landless people of the district. Of the total donees, 2,353 are *Haryjans*, 562 are aboriginals and 1,773 are

others. Some partial or full *gramdans* or gifts of the villages have also been made in the district. Such villages are Lalmatiya, Khirri, Belri, Bhudanpuri, Jor, Lavet, Rajghat, Berai and Borneasthan.

Apart from the collection and donation of lands, the district organisation of Bloodan movement in Monghyr has several other organisations to look after. They are *Gram Bharati* at Khadigram, *Ambai Vidyalaya* at Lakhisarai, and *Sarvodaya Sahitya Prakashan*. The *Gram Bharati* is the chief centre of education for all *Indir Sarva Seva Sangha* and is run by Shri Dhiren Mazumdar. The *Ambai Vidyalaya* imparts training in *Ambai Charkha*. The *Sarvodaya Sahitya Prakashan* publishes *Sarvodaya* literature and a monthly magazine, *Sarvodaya Sandesh*.

The organisation at Monghyr also looks after the management of the *Gramdan* villages in the district as well as the *Khadi* work. It is reported that there are some 50 000 spinners in the district and about 2.5 lakh people are connected with the *Khadi* work.

Harijan Sewak Sangh

The local branch of *Harijan Sewak Sangh* is exclusively associated with the work of ameliorating the condition of the *Harijans*. An attempt is made to give them a better start in life and to introduce handicrafts for improving their economic condition.

Depressed Class League

Organised by Shri Jagjwan Ram Minister, Railways Indir this league is associated with the uplift of the members of the depressed classes. The economic and social inequalities they suffer from are sought to be liquidated. Great work is being done and there are a large number of adherents who are mostly Congress minded.

Sri Krishna Seva Sadan

This institution at Monghyr commemorates the diamond jubilee of Dr Sri Krishna Sinha, the present Chief Minister of Bihar, who comes from Monghyr. The foundation stone of the building was laid on the 21st December, 1947 by Shri Jairam Das Daulat Rai, the then Governor of Bihar. The institution has also published a book "*Sri Krishna Abhinandan Granth*" which was presented to the Chief Minister, Dr S. K. Sinha by Shri Purushottam Das Tandon in 1949. A big library of books was donated by Shri Raghunath Narain Singh in the same year. The building is imposing and was completed in 1953. The institution was formally inaugurated by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on the 31st October, 1953. The institution is run by a Board of Trustees and has been registered under the Indian Societies Act. The expenditure has been met chiefly from public contributions. It has a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 50 000 per year. Dr Sri Krishna Sinha has donated his

personal library consisting of about 17,000 books to the institution (1959) The institution has several wings consisting of a Static Library, a Mobile Library, a Lecture Society, a Child Centre a Reading Room, a Gymnasium, a Homeopathy Dispensary, a Ladys Section, a Publication Section, etc

At the end of 1959 there were 41,000 books in the institution and the average daily issue of books is 106 The average daily number of readers in the library is 300

Khanlah

This institution was established in 1899 by Maulana Syed Mohammad Ali, a Muslim saint The institution is run by the descendants of the same family It is meant to propagate the theological ideas of the Muslim saint who has a considerable number of disciples both outside and inside the State

The institution has a good library of oriental books consisting of about 11,000 Persian and Arabic books The library was originally located at Kampur but was shifted to Monghyr in 1953 The new building of the library was constructed in 1955 The *Khankah* has a *madarsa* attached to it There are more than 200 students in the *madarsa* studying up to *Alim* standard About 200 students reside in the *Khankah* and a large number of them get free board and lodge A big building for the *madarsa* is under construction The mosque inside the *Khankah* is said to have been constructed in 1937 *Hizi*

The institution is run from the contributions of the disciples of Maulana Syed Mohammad Ali

Jama Masjid

The Jama Masjid in Monghyr town is said to be about 300 years old There is a *madarsa* attached to it since 1949 where about 150 students are taught in Persian and Arabic A large number of students get free board and lodge The expenditure of the *madarsa* is met from the public contribution and *jalat*, a fixed share that every Muslim has to pay from his accumulated wealth for religious purposes

Anjuman Hemayat Islam

This institution was started in 1888 and is an orphanage for the blind boys The inmates are also taught crafts The institution is run on the contributions from public and some grants from the Government There is a Managing Committee to look after the institution

Child Welfare and Maternity Centre

This institution was started by Miss E. D. Murray, granddaughter of Mr. Herschell Deer at Monghyr about 25 years back The

main stay of the Centre is the interest from Lady Sifton Trust Fund of Monghyr and an yearly grant from Bihar Maternity and Child Welfare Society, Bihar. The present Secretary Mrs E N Devar has been in that position for about 10 years but is associated with the Centre for nearly 20 years now. She is a cousin of Miss Murray and had fully associated with the Centre from Miss Murray's time. Several Governors' wives took keen interest in helping and developing the institution. The Centre is now very popular and is engaged in distributing milk to the babies, washing and cleaning them, training up the mothers for following hygiene in their daily life, etc. The expectant mothers and post delivery cases are also taken care of. It is one of the best run Child Welfare and Maternity Centres in the State and is accommodated in a fine building.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PLACES OF INTEREST

ALAULI—A village in the Khagaria Police station, in Khagaria Subdivision with an area of 1,311 acres, and a population of 1838 persons, according to 1951 census. It has a post office, a lower and an upper primary school and a State dispensary here. It is the headquarters of an *Anchal cum* Development Block.

ALIGANJ—It is about eight miles away from Sikandra on the Sikandra Nivadi pitched road and a revenue office is located here. There is a district board dispensary with a Medical Officer. The Veterinary Doctor of Sikandra Veterinary Hospital also pays a visit once in a week. There is a primary school, library, a high school and a post office with registration facilities. The village has an area of 915 acres and a population of 2,412 persons, according to 1951 census.

BAIJADURPUR—A village on the north west boundary of Khagaria subdivision situated close to the boundary of the Darbhanga district. It contains the residence of a well known family of this district. According to the family chronicles, its founder was one Lakshmi Sah, who came here from Rajputana and acquired a grant of land extending, it is said, from Manjhaul to Mohraghat. The area of the estate was about 53,600 acres and the rent roll was about Rs. 1,40,000. The estate has now vested in the Government. It has a post office with registration facility and a State dispensary.

BAHARAMPUR—A village in Bachhwara P. S. in the Begusarai subdivision with an area of 404 acres and a population of 719 persons according to 1951 census. A mosque said to have been built during the time of Iltutmish, the Sultan of Delhi attracts attention.

BAKHTIYARPUR—A village in the extreme north of the Khagaria subdivision, with a railway station called Simri Bakhtiyarpur, on the Mansi extension of the North Eastern Railway. It contains a police station and district board bungalow, and is the headquarters of Simri Bakhtiyarpur *Anchal*. It contains an old Muhammadan family known as the Chaudhris of Bakhtiyarpur. The following sketch of its history has been prepared from an account furnished by the family—The founders of the family are said to have been two brothers, Sheikh Golan and Sheikh Achary Siddiki who came from Jaunpur in 1009 F (i.e., about 1600 A.D.) and married the daughters of two brothers, Chandhri Farid and Chaudhri Hafiz, who then held *tappas* Salimabad (*pargana* Billia) Simri, Kachaut and Hamidpur. Chandhri Farid, it is said, offered to give them a grant of *tappa* Simri and shares in the other *tappas*, if they cleared the jungle and brought the land under cultivation. This they did, destroying the wild beasts which then infested the country. Subsequently a dispute arose with the neighbouring

zamindar of Nisankpur Kurha, and this led them to go to Delhi and obtain a royal charter (*farman shahi*) from Shah Jahan

According to the family records, the estate was held by the descendants of the brothers, of whom there is nothing of interest to record until 1126 F, when it passed to Gulam Muhammad. The latter had some difficulty in retaining possession of it owing to the aggression of one Deo Karan Singh Dundia of Tirhut. Gulam Muhammad brought a complaint before the Nawab of Monghyr, Sarmast Ali Khan, who, pleased with his address, offered him a writer's post (*kalamdan munshigiri*), granted him the *sanad* of the estate, and himself defeated Deo Karan Singh. Gulam Muhammad appears to have become a member of the court of the Nawab, and when he visited the Emperor, accompanied him to Delhi, making over charge of the estate to his brother Gulam Ali, who in his turn handed it over to his brother Hedayat Ullah. The latter had to meet the same kind of trouble as Gulam Muhammad, being attacked by one Rup Narayan Singh, who tried to seize *pargana* Pharkiya. Hedayat Ali succeeded in ousting him, but was soon afterwards treacherously killed. Rup Narayan Singh then looted his residence and destroyed the old *sanads* and *farmans* granted to his family. Gulam Ali subsequently recovered the estate under the orders of Ali Vardi Khan. In 1194 F (1791 A D) Chaudhri Muhammad Ali moved the family residence from Simri to Bakhtiyarpur, where his descendants still reside."

The estate of the Chaudhris has now vested in the State. According to 1951 census it has an area of 1,985 acres and a population of 4,479 souls. It has a post office, one lower primary and one upper primary school, a library and a district board inspection bungalow. The railway station is now known as Simri Bakhtiyarpur on the North Eastern Railway. It is a full fledged police station now and not an outpost as mentioned in the old Gazetteer. It is now the headquarters of Simri Bakhtiyarpur *Anchal cum* Development Block.

BAKHRI—It is a village in Begusarai subdivision with an area of 1,479 acres and a population of 2,065 souls according to 1951 census. It is the headquarters of a police station and an *Anchal cum* Development Block. It has a district board inspection bungalow, post office and a lower primary school.

BALLIA—The village is in Begusarai subdivision with an area of 3,458 acres and a population of 4,088, according to 1951 census. It is a police station and is the headquarters of an *Anchal cum* Development Block. It has a dispensary managed by the district board. There are one lower and one upper primary school and a library too. It has also a post office.

BAMDAH—"A village in Chakai *thana*, four miles north of Chakai. It contains a station of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission to the Santals, the site of which was chosen by the late

Dr. James Dyer of that mission, when he visited the place from Pachamba in 1878. A lease of seven acres was obtained, and in 1880 two preachers took up their residence in some mud huts, the construction of a bungalow being commenced in 1884. Since that year the work of the mission has developed considerably. The Rev J M Macphail, M D, began to reside at Bamdah in 1890, in 1894 a hospital was built, and by the end of 1900 a church with a handsome belfry was erected. The enlargement of the hospital was undertaken as soon as the church was completed, when an operating room was provided, constructed on modern principles. At the same time additional ward accommodation was provided by building a new dispensary and consulting room, and more recently the hospital has been enlarged and a small bungalow has been added for the accommodation of private patients. Three thousand and four hundred operations were performed at the hospital in 1923, of which 2,890 were eye operations, including 1,426 for cataract. Mrs Macphail L R C P, L R C S (Edin), has assisted in the work at Bamdah since 1898 and a son, Mr Ronald M Macphail, M B, M Ch, was appointed an additional member of the mission in 1924.

The educational work of the mission is also important. There are 64 schools connected with the mission, of which 62 are village schools, more than half of them being night schools. Six hundred and sixty four boys and 294 girls were enrolled in 1923.*

The above account has been taken from the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*. There is still the missionary hospital at Bamdah doing very useful service. Bamdah has one lower primary and one upper primary school. According to 1951 census it has an area of 685 acres and a population of 755 persons. There is a post office with registration and savings bank facilities.

It is also the *halqa* headquarters, the primary unit of the revenue administration in charge of a *Karamchari* apropos to the decentralisation programme of administration. It is also the headquarters of Bamdah Gram Panchayat. A revenue *tahsil kutchery* cum inspection bungalow is under construction. A weekly *hat* is held on every Tuesday.

BANAILI RAJ—An extensive estate in the districts of Monghyr Bhagalpur and the Santal Parganas. The founder of the family which owns this estate was Hazari Chaudhri, a *tahsildar* of the Passara Raja of Purnea who about 1780 A D, acquired by purchase *pargana* Tirakhurda in that district. His son, Dular Singh, acquired property in Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Malda about the year 1800 A D, and on his death, after some litigation, the estates were divided equally between his two sons, Raja Bidyanand Singh and Kumar

* An account of the mission will be found in *Santalia* by Dr Macphail who is also author of *The Story of the Santal* (Thacker, Spink and Co., Calcutta)

Rudranand Singh, grand father of the Srinagar Kumars Raja Bidyanand Singh subsequently purchased *Mahalat* Kharagpur, and in 1851 was succeeded by his son, Raja Lilanand Singh Bahadur, who also added to the estate by purchasing Chandpur Husain and *taluk* Khajuria Raja Lilanand Singh died in 1883, and was succeeded by his son, Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur. He also left a minor son, Kumar Kalanand Singh and a posthumous son, Kumar Kirtyanand Singh, on whose behalf a suit was instituted in 1888. It ended in a compromise decree, under which Kumar Kalanand Singh and Kumar Kirtyanand Singh were to be owners of 9 annas of the Banath Raj, while Raja Padmanand Singh kept the remaining 7 annas. In 1903 Kumar Chandranand Singh, son of Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur, brought a suit against his father for partition and other reliefs, which also ended in a compromise decree, under which the son was declared to be owner of $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas share and Raja Padmanand Singh owner of the remaining $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas share. Subsequently, however, in September 1905, Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur transferred his rights and interests to his son Kumar Chandranand Singh, who died in the year 1908, leaving a widow Srimati Chandrabati *alias* Gangabati. After she succeeded to the 7 annas share, she was declared a disqualified proprietress on her own application and the Court of Wards is in possession of the 7 annas share on her behalf. The Court of Wards has again given lease of the 7 annas estate for twelve years from 1324 F S to the proprietors of the 9 annas share, who are the principal creditors of the 7 annas estate.

In 1919 the title of Raja Bahadur was given to Kumar Kirtyanand Singh, who had been a member of the Provincial Legislative Council for the last sixteen years. Kalanand Singh, who also had the title of Raja Bahadur, died in 1922, and was succeeded by his two sons, Kumar Ramanand Singh and Kumar Krishnand Singh. The two Kumars and Raja Kirtyanand Singh Bahadur are now in possession of the whole estate which is managed jointly.

The bulk of the Banath Raj property in this district forms part of *Mahalat* Kharagpur, an extensive estate on the revenue roll of Bhagalpur bearing talu number 445. It consists of the following *parganas* — (1) Sahroi, (2) Lakhanpur, (3) Kherhi, (4) Sakharabadi, (5) Parbatpara (including *tappas* Lodhwa, Simraon, Dighi, etc.), (6) Wasila, (7) Godda, (8) Hazar Takhi, (9) Amlo Motia (10) Handwe (including a *ghatwali* held by the Rani of Handwe), (11) Chandan Katoria, (12) Jahangira and Masdi, (13) Dharahira, (14) Abhaipur, (15) Singhaul and (16) Danda Sakhwara. *Mahalat* Kharagpur, together with *parganas* Kajra and Haveli Kharagpur and the Lakshmipur estate in the Santal Parganas, originally formed part of the territory held by the Raja of Kharagpur, of whose family history an account will be found in the article on Kharagpur. When Raja Rahmat Ali Khan fell into arrears of revenue, in 1840 *Mahalat*

Kharagpur, with the *ghatwali* of Handwe, was sold and purchased by Raja Bidyanand Singh, grand father of the present proprietors of the Banaili Raj, and by Balnath Sahu of Bhagalpur, who in 1841 transferred his share to Raja Bidyanand Singh Bahadur. Since then there have been constant disputes and litigation in connection with this *mahal*, especially with the Darbhanga Raj, which in 1848 purchased at a sale for arrears of Government revenue Haveli Kharagpur, which is surrounded by *Mahalat* Kharagpur. There has also been much litigation concerning the *ghatwali* tenures, the results of which have been mentioned in Chapter X. Most of those tenures have now been converted into *mukarari islamrari* tenures, and only a few, including the *ghatwali* of Handwe in the Santal Parganas and Kakwara in the Banka subdivision of Bhagalpur, retain their *ghatwali* character. The estate has now vested in the State. The Banaili house has always been a great patron of education, art and culture.

BARAUNI—It is a village in Begusarai subdivision with an area of 2,938 acres and a population of 15,557 souls according to 1951 census. It has a lower and one upper primary school. A college has been opened in 1959. The locality is fast growing into a vital industrial pocket of India with the establishment of an oil refinery thermal plant, iron works and other ancillary work. It has a post and telegraph office and a district board inspection bungalow. It is also the headquarters of an *Anchal cum* Development Block. The opening of Mokameh Railway and Road bridge across the Ganga near Barauni has placed it on the map of a prosperous State of Bihar in the near future. The Railway Junction has grown up to an enormous importance and it now links the narrow gauge North Eastern Railway with the broad gauge Eastern Railway. The place is on the way of becoming urbanised and industrialised within a few years. North and South Bihar have been brought closer by the bridge. Barauni Station has also linked up Bihar with Assam and West Bengal much closer.

The place is not without a historical interest. Several old images have been found at Barauni include one Surya image of remarkable craftsmanship. This Surya image is preserved at the Jayaswal Archaeological and Historical Society Museum, G. D. College, Begusarai. Standing on a lotus pedestal, the image is highly ornamented and holding full blown lotus. All the peculiarities of a Surya image are there. The two legs are booted and naturally the foreign influence is perceptible. The image is wearing a sacred thread too. Various items in the structure of the image weigh more in favour of its being placed in between the Gupta and the Pal period. The body is carefully modelled with considerable regard to realism and the same commendations may be shown on the attendant. The prominent *Kirtimukha* conveys supreme reality (Bulletin no. 4 JAHS and Museum, G. D. College, Begusarai). It is also reported that there are some Brahmin families who possess manuscripts of

Bhṛigu Samhita—at Barauni, and do a lucrative business by reading horoscopes with the help of the copies of *Bhṛigu Samhita*

BARBIGHA—It is a big marketing centre and a growing township in the Sadar subdivision with a population of 10,230 souls according to 1951 census. There is one State dispensary and a missionary hospital and also a Block Medical Unit at Barbigha. It has one degree college opened a few years ago. The birth place of the present Chief Minister of Bihar, village Maur is within a mile from Barbigha. It is the headquarters of a police station and the *Anchal cum* Development Block. It has a combined post and telegraph office. There is also an inspection bungalow.

BARIARPUR—It is a growing village in the Sadar subdivision with an area of 2,968 acres and a population of 1,596 souls according to 1951 census. It is the headquarters of a police station. There are a post office, one lower primary and one upper primary school and a library. It has a railway station on the Eastern Railway.

BATIYA—This is also the headquarters of revenue *halqa* No XI of Sono *Anchal*, and of a Sectional Officer of Public Works Department. There is also an Ayurvedic Charitable Dispensary run by Santhal Paliariya Mandal, Deoghar. It is also the headquarters of the newly organised *Mandal* of the Congress Party. It is also a big exporting centre for vegetables, particularly bean. There is a post office with registration powers.

BEGUSARAI TOWN—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, (1926) mentions "Headquarters of the subdivision of the same name situated in 25° 26' N and 86° 9' E about five miles to the north of the Ganges. The town is situated at a distance of about half a mile from the railway station and the Tirhut Road runs east and west through it. This is an old road shaded by an avenue of interlacing trees, which in the main follows the course of the railway, but it has fallen into disuse to a great extent since the latter was constructed. Approaching Begusarai from the east along this road, the first building met with is a dak bungalow with four rooms, erected on a low lying piece of land at a distance of about half a mile from the town itself. A tablet let into a pillar of the verandah shows that the flood of 1904 rose to a height of nearly three feet above the plinth. Half a mile beyond the bungalow on the outskirts of the town, lies the subdivisional office, a small building with an upper storey. The building is situated in a fine compound in which mango trees grow in profusion and the Munsif's court, schools, hospital *thana*, and local board offices are situated close by. Just beyond the Subdivisional Officer's compound to the north is a fine tank fringed by palm trees, at the south west corner of which is a small temple, where Kayasths worship.

The town contains two mosques and three temples, but none of these has any features of architectural interest, and the bazar itself

is much the same as other Bihar bazars. Half way through the latter is the *sarai*, from which the town presumably derives its name. It consists of an open space surrounded by tumble-down shops and lodging houses. Beyond the *sarai* the town opens out, the avenue of trees is seen again, and presently on the western skirts of the town we get a glimpse of pleasant bungalow, seen through an avenue of bamboos*. This is the Begusarai Factory, better known locally as Harraikh, which was built by Mr James Hennessy in 1863, and is now the property of Babu Khub Lal Singh. There is a thriving grain market with several godowns at the southern extremity of the town, and to the east and south-east are extensive mango groves.

The population of the town, according to the census of 1921, was 9,062 as against 15,141 in 1951. Within three decades the town has gained a population nearly twice as large. It shows the importance of the town which has been growing rapidly. It was made the head quarters of the subdivision by a notification dated the 6th January, 1870. It has all the usual subdivisional offices. It is a big trade centre. Its importance is all the more becoming obvious due to the establishment of basic industries in the subdivision in and around Barauni.

The town has the following main *muhallahs*: Bagaha, Monghyriganj, Pokhariya, Chatupur, Bishanpur, Kalishha, Muhammadpur, Ratanpur, Hemra, Harraikh, Gachhitola, Nauronga, Mirganj, Telhapokhar, Surlidnagar, Miachak and Sarai. They are very closely populated. The roads are narrow and uneven. The shops are scattered all along the town.

The main imports are grains, cloth, coal and stationery goods, etc. The main exports are chillies, castor seeds and maize. Begusarai has a number of Central and State officers and their offices included offices of S D O, Civil (*Anchal*), S D O, Public Works Department, S D O, Projects, S D O, Public Health Engineering Department, S D O, Waterways, S D O, Tube well, S D O, Animal Husbandry, S D O, Education, S D O, Electricity, Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Additional Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police, S D O, Revenue, S D O, Agriculture, Inspector of Industries, Inspector of L I C (Life Insurance Corporation), State Bank branch, Welfare Inspector, National Savings Supervisor, Superintendent of Central Excise, Inspector, Central Excise, Anti Malaria Officer, District Public Relation Officer (North Monghyr), Deputy Inspector of Schools, Judicial Magistrate, Munsif Magistrates (2), Sub Judge, Sub Registrar, Assistant Engineer in-charge, Minor Irrigation, *Anchal Adhikari* (Begusarai), Assistant Civil Surgeon and Lady Assistant Surgeon. It has also a railway station on the North Eastern

* The above account was contributed by the late Mr H R T S Parrott, ICS formerly Subdivisional Officer of Begusarai.

Railway which connects the town with Delhi in the north and Gauhati in the east and also with the South Bihar through Ganga Bridge. There is a landing ground near the town.

The educational institutions in the town include G. D. College, the Ajodhya Shivkumari Ayurvedic College, Girls' College, B. P. H. E. School, Baidyanath Collegiate School, Mahanth Bishunpur H. E. School and Omar Girls' High School and seven middle schools. There are also several lower primary schools managed by the Notified Area Committee.

There are a number of temples and mosques in the town including Sri Mahant Mahabirdas Ji Ka Mandir, Kaliasthan temple, Tehrinath temple; Kapuristhan temple, Sarai, mosque for Muhammadans. Baripokhar a big tank is used for immersion of idols and its embankments provide space for on-lookers and performers of festivals like *Chhat*. There is a park named Surhid Park near the railway station and a cinema hall. The main library in the town is Swarna Jyanti Pustakalaya, established in 1945-46. The main clubs are Officers' Club, Town Club and Subdivisional Sports Association.

The town has electricity and limited pipe water-supply. There is a Notified Area Committee constituted in 1950. This committee does the work of a municipality within a limited scale. The town has had a lopsided growth and is over-congested. With the development of Barauni as an industrial centre Begusarai will have more importance. The slum areas are interspersed into better class dwellings. It may ultimately become the headquarters of a district.

A large number of the town dwellers are well-to-do and belong to the middle class professions like lawyers, teachers, doctors, etc.

BEGUSARAI SUBDIVISION.—The north-western subdivision of the district lying between 25°-15' and 25°-47' N. and between 87°-47' E. It has an area of 715 square miles with a population of 7,93,942 as against its population of 5,86,199 in 1921. There were in 1921 755 villages including Begusarai against 695 inhabited villages and towns including Begusarai (15,141), in 1951. Teghra is the most populous town though the headquarters town is Begusarai. It is in the North Monghyr on the other side of Ganga. To its north and west lies the Samastipur subdivision in the district of Darbhanga. To its east is its sister subdivision of Khagaria and to the south flows the river Ganga with its numerous *ghats*. The alluvial plains of the subdivision is well known for the richness, fertility and productiveness of its soil and is one of the most densely populated areas in North East India. Fringed by the river Ganga on the south, the subdivision can claim to be extensively served by the natural waterways of river Burhi Gandak, Balan and Bagmati and also by the vast natural lake known as the "Kabar Tal" having an area of over 18,000 acres. The river Burhi Gandak winds from

north west to south east of the subdivision in big loops and in recent years it has been the cause of much sorrow in the shape of high floods. The river Bagmati cuts through only small portion of the Bakhri *thana* to the north east.

Embankment—The subdivision which came into existence in 1870 has been the growth of a network of embankments from its very early days. One of the two oldest embankments is the Monghyr Bundh which runs along the left bank of the Baya river and protects a large part of Teghra and Bachhwara *thanas* from inundation. To the south of Begusarai lies the famous Gupta Bundh which is an old zamindari embankment strengthened and repaired after the flood of 1889 by late Sri Ashutosh Gupta, the Subdivisional Officer of Begusarai from 1888–1890. The embankment is about 13 miles long starting from near Garhara and terminating near village Saidpur below Simho to the south-east of Begusarai. After the severe flood of 1934–35 a retired *bundh* (popularly known as ‘Ring Bundh’) in the shape of a ring from village Kaithma to village Lakho was constructed mainly to protect Begusarai town from the ravages of the Ganga. An important system of embankment along the rivers Burhi Gandak and Balan, known as ‘Musmara Prabandha Mohanpur Embankment’ was constructed by Government in the Waterways Department in the years 1950–51.

The richness of the soil allows several crops to be grown all round the year. The main food crops in the southern eastern and western parts of the subdivision are wheat and *makai* while paddy is grown in some portion of the northern part the remaining portion being wheat-growing. Sugarcane is the main cash crop in the north and a large part of the Bakhri and Bariarpur *thanas* are the reserved area of the New India Sugar Mills at Hasanpur Road situated on the border of the subdivision on the north east. The main cash crop in the remaining part of the subdivision is chilli which in good years can be very paying.

Communication—As in other parts of North Bihar, rail and road communication is comparatively undeveloped in the subdivision. The railways which came to Begusarai in the year 1900 are of metre gauge and the main line passing through the subdivision joins Monghyr Ghat on the east to Barauni and then passes to the west through Teghra and Bachhwara into the Hajipur subdivision. A branch line joining Salouna Railway Station of Bakhri *thana* to Khagaria on the east and Rosera on the west serves the north eastern part of the subdivision. The most important roads of the subdivision are two namely, (i) the Begusarai-Sagi Road which starts from Begusarai and passes through Bariarpur *thana* into the district of Darbhanga is now partly tarred and is motorable. It is about 27 miles long and needs a bridge over the river Burhi Gandak at Siuri Ghat to make it an uninterrupted highway to the north. (ii) the Tirhut Road which runs from village Samastipur in the east to

Teghra in the west, cutting the subdivision into two halves and forming its most important highway. The extension of this road up to Monghyr Ghat on the east and beyond Bachhwara on the west to make a national highway is in progress.

Except for the Rajoura-Sisouni Road, the Tilrath Road, the Bhagwanpur Kothi Road, the six miles of roads in Begusarai town and a few other small district board roads, there is no other *pucca* road in the subdivision, the villages being served by *katcha* roads which are mostly unmotorable during the rainy season. The total mileage of *pucca* road is 78 and that of the *katcha* road is 507. There is a small landing ground at Ulao which, though unserviceable during the rainy months remains busy during the winter and summer seasons. The riverways of this subdivision are not much used for traffic but grains are imported through the river Burhi Gandak from the east and several points like Monghyr Ghat, Madhurapur, Simaria Ghat on the river Ganga remain busy in exchanging passengers and goods with the south.

The subdivision is well served with postal facilities there being no less than 10 sub post offices at Begusarai, Barauni, Teghra, Bachhwara, Manjhaul, Garhara, Shri Ram Press, Lakhminia, Ulao and Suhridnagar respectively and 106 branch offices scattered in the subdivision. There are telegraph offices at Bachhwara, Barauni, Begusarai, Bakhri Bazar, Teghra, Manjhaul and Lakhminia. The public call offices are located at Begusarai, Teghra, Barauni, Manjhaul, Ulao and Suhridnagar. There are two Telephone Exchanges at Begusarai (opened on 26th March, 1958) and Teghra (opened in early 1959).

People—With about 8 lacs of men and women the subdivision which has a total area of 715 square miles can be considered to be very thickly populated. The predominant section of the people are the Bhumihar Brahmins who are zealous and painstaking cultivators having great attachment to land. Some fine specimens of manhood can be seen in villages like Barharia, Madhurapur, Bihat, Ramdiri who, alas, are also well known for their habit of litigation and occasional turbulence. The people speak Hindi of a dialect which can be said to be a mixture of Maithili and Magahi.

Administration—For administrative purposes the subdivision is divided into six *thanas*, namely, Begusarai, Teghra, Ballia, Bariarpur, Bakhri and Bachhwara, of which Bakhri and Bachhwara came into existence after 1942. The chief executive and revenue officer is the Subdivisional Officer who is assisted by other Magistrates and Circle Officers. A large number of zamindaries has been taken over and the Land Reforms Department in running the vested estates is fast coming of its own. The work of the Land Reforms Department is in charge of a Deputy Collector in charge of Land Reforms who is assisted by several Circle Officers, Circle Inspectors and *Karamchans*.

Mention must also be made of the ancient fort of Naula Garh lying in Bachhwara *thana*. Naula Garh has been noticed separately.

Industries—The subdivision was covered by a network of indigo factories of Europeans till the indigo industry itself died a natural death. Some of the important factories owned by Englishmen were at Majhaul, Bhagwanpur, Daulatpur, Agapur and Harakh. The main occupation of the people of this subdivision is agriculture. The *mallahs* and *gorhis* of Baranpur specially of the Kabar Tal area do a lot of fishing and bird catching, the catch being usually exported to big cities. There is no other industry of importance. The potter community of Mansurchak was once well known for their skill specially in punting earthenware, but the industry is in decay and only four potter families remain as the sole evidence of this flourishing community.

Fairs and Melas—Some religious fairs and *melas* are held at Semaria Ghat on the occasion of Kartik Purnimasi, Baisakh Purnimasi and Magh Purnimasi, at Monghyr Ghat on the occasion of Purnimasi days and the Durga Puja *mela* at Begusarai, Teghra and Purihara. Non religious *melas* are held at Sanghaul, Mansurchak and Bajitpur. Purnimasi is a full moon day.

Health—The health of the subdivision is good and the climate fairly bracing. Plague used to be a scourge in Teghra, Bakhti and Ballia *thanas* but the vigorous anti epidemic measures of the Government in the past four years have banished this menace from the area and no case of plague has been reported since 1950. The health affairs of the subdivision are in charge of an Assistant Health Officer and his staff employed by the District Board, under the general supervision of the Subdivisional Officer. In the town of Begusarai, the Notified Area Committee has its own health staff to look after the health of its over 44,000 townsmen.

Natural Calamities—As in most other subdivisions of North Bihar, flood is one of the woes of the people. Formerly the flood from the Ganga was a terror for the people of South Begusarai, the worst known Ganga floods being of the years 1904, 1906, 1916, 1923 and 1935. The areas affected by the Ganga flood are the *diaras* of Teghra, Ballia and South Begusarai. The strengthening of the Gupta Bundh in the early years of this century and the construction of a ring bundh have now made the Begusarai *thana* comparatively safe from the Ganga flood. The floods in rivers Burhi Gandak and its tributary Balan have also caused damage from time to time but it is only during the last three years that the flood has been of great intensity and duration and has created a problem for the Irrigation Department. Government are thinking of a big scheme of flood control in North Bihar. Begusarai subdivision also is expected to benefit from it.

Development Projects and Welfare Work—The State has now taken up some big development projects in this subdivision as part of the Five Year Plan and they are nearing completion. Mention may be made of the National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks which have been opened at eleven places, e.g., Begusarai, Chitripiur, Cheria, Baranpur, Khodawondpur, Bakhi, Balia, Sahebpur Kaund, Teghra, Barauni, Bichhwara and Bhagwanpur. These places have also been treated as the headquarters for respective *Anchals* and *Halkas* simultaneously. The scheme of lift irrigation in South Begusarai through tube wells run by electricity is fast nearing completion. Drainage of Kabar Tal has been completed by 1954-55 and about 7500 acres have been brought under paddy cultivation. The construction of a power house for the tube well irrigation and supply of electricity to the town of Begusarai has been completed and the town is supplied with electricity since 1955-56. The supply is also augmented by supply from D V C (Damodar Valley Corporation) and some villages are also getting electricity for domestic use and industries. It is also gratifying to note that the northern leg to the Mokamah rail cum road bridge is in this subdivision at Simaria. When this very important means of communication will be fully utilised and the development schemes are completed this subdivision may well become one of the most prosperous areas in the State and portions will be highly industrialised. Barauni area has a big prospect as it is expected that a power house, a thermal plant, a refinery and other industrial projects will be sited in the locality. The newly opened road-cum-railway bridge between Mokamah and Barauni has brought North and South Bihar much closer to each other. It has also brought the State of Assam and certain parts of West Bengal closer to the North India. People from Delhi travelling by train to Assam will now save more than 24 hours by travelling from Delhi to Amingaon *via* Mokamah, Barauni, Katihar and Siliguri.

BHADURIA BHUR—A hot spring about two miles from Rishikund on the other side of the Kharagpur range of hills, not far from the village of Dariyapur in the Jamalpur *thana*. The name means the cleft of Bhaduria Hill, and the spring is much cooler than the Rishikund spring, of which it is locally believed to be a branch. It emerges at the foot of the Bhaduria Hill from among masses of quartzite rocks, accompanied by a free discharge of gaseous bubbles, devoid of smell and unflammable. The water is drunk by men and cattle. Its temperature as recorded by Colonel Waddell in March 1890 was 98.5° F.

BHIMBANDHI—A village in the Sadar subdivision, within the Kharagpur police-station with an area of 4,137 acres and a population of 287 according to 1951 census. It is situated about 12 miles south west of Kharagpur and four miles north of Guddih. Close to the village are some hot springs, called *Tatal pani* (*Tapta pani*) which

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are by far the finest in the district. The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* published in 1926 quoted Captain Sherwill who gave the following account of these springs — "The first spring is situated about 300 yards to the north of the village immediately under a small detached hill named Mahadeva, from whose base the water issued in a fine stream at a temperature of 147° Fahrenheit. A few hundred yards farther to the north, at the foot of the hornstone hill Damadama, we came upon a region of hot springs. Hot water appeared to be spouting from the ground in every direction the principal springs, of which there are eight or ten, had uniform temperature of 145°, all rising within a space of about 300 yards square. Across numerous hot streams are, of course, many foot paths used by the cultivators round about Bhimbandh, but nowhere at the point of crossing did I find the water above 120°, and even that temperature made the men and women hurry across the stream when fording from bank to bank. To our European skins the heat of 10° was intolerable nor could any of the party walk coolly across any of the fords at that temperature without being severely scalded though not blistered. Luxuriant crops of rice are raised by the aid of the hot streams, large fields being fed by the water but at a reduced temperature by leading it in devious courses to the cultivated land. The united waters of all these hot springs are conveyed away by the small stream called the Man*. Not far off is a small pool of cold water under an overhanging rock in that river, called Bhimkund, which is sacred to Bhim and is visited by pilgrims.

These springs rising at about 300 feet above sea level are the principal source of the Man itself. The highest temperature recorded by Dr Buchanan on the 21st March 1811 was 150°. Sherwill in September of 1847, Waddell in January of 1890, and Schulten in August of 1913, observed temperatures of 147°, 146.2°, and 148° respectively, but Mr V H Jackson considers that there are twelve sources in the Mahadeva group and at least nineteen in the Damadama group, and the hottest of them may not have been observed. Readings taken between 1912 and 1919 varied from 145.5° to 146° in the Mahadeva, and from 148° to 148.8° in the Damadama series.

Buchanan noticed that water of the Man, near the springs, was warmer than the atmosphere, and in one place where bubbles were rising in the stream his thermometer registered 98°. Mr Jackson has traced this to a second series of hot springs along the course of the river, commencing immediately below the Bhimkund and extending for more than a quarter of a mile before the outflow of the first series is reached. Their position varies to some extent from year to year after the rains, but when they can be observed above the stream level their temperature is fairly uniform, though not higher than

* Capt. S R Sherwill *The Kurruckpoor Hills* J A S B, Vol. XXI 1852

General Cunningham identified the Mahadeva Hill with one mentioned by Huen Tsiang in the seventh century A D as the site where Buddha overcame the Yakshī Vākula. Huen Tsiang describes the place as a small solitary double peaked hill, or, according to another translation, a hill "with successive crags heaped up", situate on the western frontier of Hiranya Parvata, a tract held by recognized authorities to coincide the approximately with the hilly portion of this district. To the west were six or seven hot springs, the water of which was extremely hot. Colonel Waddell has shown, however, that there are good grounds for doubting this identification, and that the natural features of the country do not agree with the description of the Chinese pilgrim. He points out that the hill is not on the western but the southern frontier of Hiranya Parvata, and that the hot springs are not to the west of the hill, but actually upon the hill itself and on its eastern and north-eastern slope. There are no remains of any kind except those of a small brick shrine about four feet square housing a *linga*, there is no history of there ever having been any remains, and the situation is so remote that had they ever existed, it is scarcely possible that every trace of them would have been swept away*.

There is now a well planned forest bungalow with modern conveniences.

BIRPUR—It is a village three miles from Tīrath Railway Station in the Tegūra P S. It is about 12 miles away on the north west of Begusarī. In this village in 1958 while reclaiming an old tank under the Hard Manual Scheme people came across valuable historical relics and religious idols of exquisite craftsmanship said to belong to the Pala period. The important finds include Nandi—4½ feet in length and 2½ feet in height (in sitting posture), dancing Ganesh on his *Vahana* rat, three images of Vishnu is one of the images the *Kirtimukh* is missing, Narsingh, and Navagraha, all in polished blackstone. Mr Johnston noticed in 1918 a Sun image at Birpur. After that images of Lokeshwara, Kali and Nava Durga were found in and around the village from beneath the earth. All of them are in excellent condition and almost all of them are now being worshipped by the villagers from far and near and temples have been built over these idols. Big rectangular bricks have also been found. A proper scientific excavation may yield further and fuller account about the spot's antiquity.

BURHU (BURHIYA)—It is a growing town with a population of 20,752 souls according to 1951 census. It is famous for its fertile strip of land, known as *Bhurhiya tal*. The people are rich and robust in health. One college has been opened in 1959 in this town. It is the headquarters of a police station and the *Anchal cum* Development Block. It has a combined post and telegraph office and

* L. A. Waddell *Discovery of Buddhist Remains at Mount Uren in Mungyr (Monghyr) District*, J A S B Vol LXI, Part I, 1892

one district board inspection bungalow. The place is fast growing into a prosperous urban area. The township has roads both *pucca* and *kachha*. There are public conveyances available. The place is supplied with electricity from Damodar Valley Corporation.

CHAKAI—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following regarding its historical associations—A reference to the survey map will show an entry of a fort called Hastings Fort against Chakai. Little is known about its history, but Mr. F. Bradley Birt, I.C.S., has kindly contributed the following note on the subject—‘It is not clear how this fort came to be known as Hastings Fort. The villagers do not know it by that name, but as the Sarkari Garh or Fatehgarh—the Fort of Victory. It has been generally supposed that the name commemorates the Marquis of Hastings. There is nothing, however, to associate him in any way with this fort, and it must undoubtedly have been in existence considerably before his time. It was apparently built by Captain Browne, the first representative of British rule in this corner of the district, whose name is still remembered by all the people round. I found an old man there whose grand father was one of the sepoys with Captain Browne at the time the fort was built. It is quite probable that the name of Warren Hastings, the greatest Englishman of the day in India, should have been given to the fort and there being no evidence, so far as I can discover, to connect it with the Marquis of Hastings. I think this may be taken as one of the few places outside Calcutta that still perpetuates the name of the first great Governor General. Of the fort itself nothing remains but the bare outline, which can still be traced in mound and trench. Close by is another fort, supposed to have been the native one, of yet vaguer outline, with an open space still known as the Chandmari (rifle range) beside it’.

Captain Browne held charge of the Jungleterry (Jungle Tarai) district, in which this tract was then included, from 1774 to 1779, his duty being to introduce peace and settled government. According to local tradition he was opposed by the *ghatwals*, and their opposition led to the construction of the fort at Chakai. The villagers assert positively that the fort facing the inspection bungalow is the native fort, and that the ruins near the *thana* and north of the bungalow are all that remain of the British fort. Local tradition also says that he was buried at Chakai, but his tomb if it exists, cannot be distinguished from the Muhammadan tombs scattered about’.

A Community Development Block has since been started at Chakai with all its activities and ramifications. A veterinary dispensary is also under construction. It is also the headquarters of an *Anchal cum* Development Block. There is a post office with registration and Savings Bank facilities and one missionary hospital. It has a population of 860 persons, according to 1951 census.

CHAUTHAM—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following—"A village in the north east of the Monghyr subdivision, situated at the junction of the Bagmati and Tiljuga rivers, about 15 miles north east of the town of Monghyr. It contains the residence of an old Kshatriya family known as the Babus of Chautham. According to the family tradition, they are descended from Murar Sahi, who, with his brother Jorawar Sahi, was in the service of one Raja Kanchan. The estate of the latter having been taken by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, the two brothers returned to their home near Delhi and rendered good service to the Emperor. They were rewarded by the grant of two zamindaris, Godhna Manjhi (also called Chirand Chapra) in the Saran district, and *tappa* Chautham in this district. Jorawar Sahi took possession of the former and Murar Sahi of the latter, which he enjoyed till 986 F, i.e., 1578 A.D. He then lost his life in a battle against one Saiyad Sahi, and all the females of his family, for fear of ill treatment, set fire to the house and were burnt to death. One son, Ram Sahi, however, escaped, and going to Delhi, had the zamindari restored to him. The estate, it is said, was originally covered with jungle, which the founders of the family cleared." The population is 3,858 according to 1951 census. There is the office of a Block Development Officer. There are Schools and Post Offices.

DEOGHAR—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following—"A small hill in the south-east corner of the Monghyr subdivision, situated about ten miles south of Kharagpur close to the Sangrampur Road. It is composed of giant boulders piled one on top of another, and on its summit is a temple known as the temple of Ochnath, which is dedicated to Siva. The people of the neighbouring villages come here on the 14th day of Phalgun (February) to worship the god, and on this occasion there is a fair lasting for three days. Buchanan Hamilton 100 years ago described the hill as a very picturesque rock of granite. 'On its summit is a small temple, to which none of my Hindus would ascend, although they were very desirous, and although a Moslem *lascar* showed them the example, but the precipice is tremendous, and the ladders were very bad.'"

GANDOGHAT—It is about 12 miles north-east of Jhajha and one mile east of Borwa Tahsil *Katchery*. There is a minor fall surrounded on all sides by beautiful hills covered with sylvan grandeur of tall trees like Sal and Asan. About 25 years back the place used to attract a huge gathering to have blessings of a Swami named Raghubir Swami whose place of meditation *chabutra* a platform is still intact at the peak of the hill.

About two furlong of the falls, there is a place covering an area about four acres, which gives a peculiar rebounding echo when trod upon or patted upon the ground by the hill.

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extended further west into more fertile country. The son of Bir Bikram Singh Sukhdeo Singh, is said to³ have built at Kakeswar, four miles east of Gidhaur, 108 temples to Siva and one dedicated to Durga. The eighth in descent, Puran Mal, established himself at Lachhaur (q v), sixteen miles west of Gidhaur, and built in 1596 the great temple of Baidyanath, a Sanskrit inscription in which refers to him as *nripati*, or king of men. After his death the property was divided between his two sons, the partition being explained by a quaint legend. It is said that a bard of Delhi came to Puran Mal, and recited some wonderful verses in praise of the Raja. When the time came to reward the bard, he declined to take any remuneration except the "philosopher's stone" (*paras*), which has the power of turning iron into gold. Puran Mal had no such stone, but one day, when he happened to be turning up some earth with a knife the knife at once turned into gold. The Raja at once saw that the earth must contain the *paras*, and digging it up gave it to the bard, who took it to Delhi. There he proclaimed his good fortune, and was sent for by the Emperor. The bard said that he would show the stone only in a boat, and it was arranged that the Emperor should sit in one boat and the poet in another. The latter then asked the Emperor to stretch out his sword and, having touched it with the stone, threw the stone into the river. The sword was turned into gold, and the Emperor was convinced of the truth of the story. As the stone was lost, the name of the donor of the stone was ascertained and he was directed to come to Delhi.

Puran Mal had died in the meantime, and his two sons Hari Singh and Bisambhar Singh ruled in his stead. The former was taken to Delhi and, being unable to produce another such stone, was sent to prison. While Hari Singh was in jail, Bisambhar Singh succeeded to the *gadi* and became sole master of the estate. Hari Singh, after some time, pleased the Emperor by his skill in archery and was given the *pargana* of Bisthazari. When he came, however, to take possession, he found Bisambhar Singh installed. An amicable settlement was therefore made between them. Hari Singh obtaining 9 annas of Gidhaur *pargana* and 7 annas of Bisthazari, while the rest was retained by Bisambhar Singh. The former was the ancestor of the Gidhaur Maharaja and the latter of the Kumar of Khair. Another and more reasonable account is that Hari Singh was kept at Delhi as a hostage for the good conduct of Puran Mal, but otherwise the story of his return and of the amicable settlement with his brother is the same.

Dulan Singh, the fourteenth Raja, received high honours from the Musalman Government, and the title of Raja was confirmed by a *farman* of the Emperor Shah Jahan, which still exists, bearing date the 21st Rajab 1068 A. H., corresponding to A. D. 1651. In the struggle between the sons of Shah Jahan he took up the cause of Dara Shikoh, and the family still possesses a letter from the latter thanking

GIDHESHWAR—About eight miles south of Jamui there is a place Gidheshwar. The genesis of the name is from the mythology that the tough fight between Jatayu the bird and Ravan who was stealing Sita took place at this particular place and that after the fight Jatayu breathed his last at the spot. Whatever the fact may be it is a fact that even now a-days this steep and high hill is the abode of a large number of vultures.

There is also a temple of Lord Shiva. It is said that the temple was built by one Harmandin Prasad *Tahsildar* of Khairi Estate. He previously found the Shiva *Linga* lying at a place in course of a survey, which he was doing as an *Amin*. However at the time of installation when some earth was dug up around the *Lingam* for raising up it was found to be fixed up on a well built platform tied up with iron walls and bolts. A *meta* is held every year at the time of *Shivratri* and *Might Purnima*.

It is also the head work of the Gidheshwar Pyne. It was started in the year 1952.

There is also a rest house building of the Waterways Department. The headquarters of the *Khairi Anchalcum National Extension Service Block* is located at Biribagh i.e. Gidheshwar.

GIDHAUR—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) contains the following—A village and police station in the Jamui subdivision situated nine miles south east of Jamui and one mile from the railway station of the same name. Population (1921) 1859. It contains the residence of one of the oldest of the noble families of Bihar the founder of which was Bir Bikram Sah of the Chandel sect of Chandrabansi Rajputs. The earliest account of his ancestors represents them as holding a small estate called Mohra in Bandelkhurd and being overcome by Prithviraj the last Hindu emperor of Delhi. Subsequently they were driven out by the Muhammadans in the 11th century and won for themselves three principalities viz. Bijaigarh Agoria Barhar in the Mirzapur district and Bardia in the present Rewah State. A few generations later Bir Bikram Sah a younger brother of the chief of Bardia left his home under the direction it is said of the god Shiva and set out with a large following to the shrine of Baidynath at Deoghar. Bir Bikram Sah found the country in the possession of aboriginals said to have been Dosadhs. Then he overcame, killing their chief Nagoria and the pool in which the Rajput victor washed his bloody sword is known to this day as the Khindwa Pokhar i.e. the pool of the sword. He appears to have been the first Rajput invader of this part of Jharkhand or the forest land and after the lapse of six centuries the family which he founded is still wealthy and influential.

Their original home was at the foot of the hills where the remains of an old stone fort and other buildings may still be traced in the scrub jungle and close by the remains of a large fort called Naulakhagarh described later in this chapter. In time their territory

extended further west into more fertile country. The son of Bir Bikram Singh Sukhdeo Singh, is said to⁴ have built at Kakeswar, four miles east of Gidhaur, 108 temples to Siva and one dedicated to Durga. The eighth in descent, Puran Mal, established himself at Lichhwar (q 1), sixteen miles west of Gidhaur, and built in 1596 the great temple of Baidyanath, a Sanskrit inscription in which refers to him as *nripati*, or king of men. After his death the property was divided between his two sons the partition being explained by a quaint legend. It is said that a bard of Delhi came to Puran Mal, and recited some wonderful verses in praise of the Raja. When the time came to reward the bard, he declined to take any remuneration except the "philosopher's stone" (*paras*), which has the power of turning iron into gold. Puran Mal had no such stone, but one day when he happened to be turning up some earth with a knife, the knife at once turned into gold. The Raja at once saw that the earth must contain the *paras*, and digging it up gave it to the bard, who took it to Delhi. There he proclaimed his good fortune, and was sent for by the Emperor. The bard said that he would show the stone only in a boat, and it was arranged that the Emperor should sit in one boat and the poet in another. The latter then asked the Emperor to stretch out his sword, and, having touched it with the stone, threw the stone into the river. The sword was turned into gold, and the Emperor was convinced of the truth of the story. As the stone was lost, the name of the donor of the stone was ascertained and he was directed to come to Delhi.

Puran Mal had died in the meantime, and his two sons Hari Singh and Bisambhar Singh ruled in his stead. The former was taken to Delhi and, being unable to produce another such stone, was sent to prison. While Hari Singh was in jail Bisambhar Singh succeeded to the *gadi* and became sole master of the estate. Hari Singh, after some time, pleased the Emperor by his skill in archery and was given the *pargana* of Bisthazari. When he came, however, to take possession, he found Bisambhar Singh installed. An amicable settlement was therefore made between them. Hari Singh obtaining 9 annas of Gidhaur *pargana* and 7 annas of Bisthazari, while the rest was retained by Bisambhar Singh. The former was the ancestor of the Gidhaur Maharaja and the latter of the Kumar of Khaira. Another and more reasonable account is that Hari Singh was kept at Delhi as a hostage for the good conduct of Puran Mal but otherwise the story of his return and of the amicable settlement with his brother is the same.

Dulan Singh, the fourteenth Raja, received high honours from the Musalman Government, and the title of Raja was confirmed by a *farman* of the Emperor Shah Jahan, which still exists, bearing date the 21st Rajab 1068 A. H., corresponding to A. D. 1651. In the struggle between the sons of Shah Jahan he took up the cause of Dara Shikoh, and the family still possesses a letter from the latter thanking

GIDHESHWAR—About eight miles south of Jamui, there is a place Gidheshwar. The genesis of the name is from the mythology that the tough fight between Jatayu the bird and Ravan who was stealing Sita took place at this particular place and that after the fight, Jatayu breathed his last at the spot. Whatever the fact may be, it is a fact that even now a-days this steep and high hill is the abode of a large number of vultures.

There is also a temple of Lord Shiva. It is said that the temple was built by one Harmandan Prasad, *Tahsildar* of Khairā Estate. He previously found the Shiva Linga lying at a place in course of a survey, which he was doing as an *Amin*. However, at the time of installation when some earth was dug up around the Lingam for raising up it was found to be fixed up on a well built platform tied up with iron walls and bolts. A *mela* is held every year at the time of Shivaratri and Maghi Purnima.

It is also the head work of the Gidheshwar Pyne. It was started in the year 1952.

There is also a rest house building of the Waterways Department. The headquarters of the Khairā *Anchal cum* National Extension Service Block is located at Bribaghi, i.e., Gidheshwar.

GIDHAUR—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) contains the following—"A village and police station in the Jamui subdivision, situated nine miles southeast of Jamui and one mile from the railway station of the same name. Population (1921) 1,859. It contains the residence of one of the oldest of the noble families of Bihar, the founder of which was Bir Bikram Sah of the Chandel sect of Chandrabansi Rajputs. The earliest account of his ancestors represents them as holding a small estate called Mohab in Bandelkhand, and being overcome by Prithwiraj, the last Hindu emperor of Delhi. Subsequently they were driven out by the Muhammadans in the 11th century, and won for themselves three principalities, viz., Bijaigarh, Agorhi Bihar in the Mirzapur district, and Bardi in the present Rewari State. A few generations later Bir Bikram Sah, a younger brother of the chief of Bardi, left his home under the direction, it is said, of the god Shiva, and set out with a large following to the shrine of Baidyanath at Deoghar. Bir Bikram Sah found the country in the possession of aboriginals, said to have been Dosadhs. Then he overcame, killing their chief Nagoria, and the pool in which the Rajput victor washed his bloody sword is known to this day as the Khirindwa Pokhar, i.e., the pool of the sword. He appears to have been the first Rajput invader of this part of Jharkhand, or the forest land, and after the lapse of six centuries the family which he founded is still wealthy and influential.

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the Raja for his help, besides a letter from Prince Shuja asking for his aid. After the English assumed the government of Bengal and Bihar, Raja Gopal Singh, the nineteenth in descent, was for a time deprived of his estates, but afterwards recovered possession. The title of Raja was granted by the British Government in 1856 to his descendant Jaimangal Singh in recognition of his services during the Santal rebellion of 1855, and in 1861 he was granted an estate yielding a rental of Rs 3,000 per annum to be held rent free during his life time, in acknowledgment of the services he rendered during the Mutiny of 1857. Subsequently, he was granted the title of Maharaja in 1865 and was made a K C S I in 1866, while the title of Maharaja Bahadur was made hereditary in the family in 1877 on the occasion of the assumption by Her Majesty Queen Victoria of the title of Empress of India. He was succeeded by Maharaja Siva Prasad Singh, and the present head of the house is Maharaja Chandra Mauleshvar Prashad Singh Bahadur.

The Government revenue paid by the estate is reported to be about Rs 20,000, and the income about Rs 2,50,000. After the accession of the late Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwar Prasad Singh much was done to improve the village of Gidhaur, and it now contains a brick built bazar, a good school and a charitable dispensary. The old Srivilas palace has been modernized, and a new palace called the Sukhnavas has been built. A clock tower, built to commemorate a visit of the Viceroy, Lord Minto, was opened in February, 1909.

The estate has now vested in the State. Gidhaur is also a *Halka* headquarters. There is one sugar mill just near the Gidhaur Railway Station. A well furnished guest house is here maintained on the pattern of *dak* bungalow by the Maharaja of Gidhaur. There is a post office in direct mail connection with the Railway Mail Service.

GOGRI.—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following — A village in the Monghyr subdivision situated on the north bank of the Ganges, about 15 miles north east of Monghyr. It is a station on the steamer route from Patna to Goalundo, and is connected by a road, four miles long, with the Maheskund railway station on the Hajipur Katihar extension of the Bengal and North Western Railway. The village contains a police station, middle English school, dispensary, post office and inspection bungalow, besides the estate offices of some influential zamindars. It is an important trade centre, being the main outlet for *pargana* Pharkiya. Grain is the chief article of export, but fish are also exported in fairly large quantities. The village was formerly situated some miles to the west, but the old site was washed away by the Ganges some years ago, when a flood of that river carried away the southern portion of the embankment which protects the place. The embankment has recently been raised and strengthened by the district board,

and it has now been brought under the Embankment Act after it has been remodelled "

It is now in the Khagaria subdivision and not in Monghyr subdivision as mentioned in the last Gazetteer. It has got now a pitched road from Maheshkhunt. This is also the headquarters of a Community Development Block. There is a Union Committee. The village is now fast developing culturally and politically and is likely to assume the shape of an urban area in near future. There is a post office.

HALSI—It is a village about eight miles on Sikandra Lakhisarai Road. It is a growing village having a police ex beat office and weekly veterinary dispensary. It has been decided to locate the headquarters of *Anchal cum* National Extension Service Block at Halsi. The village has a post-office with registration facilities.

HASANPUR—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr, 1926* mentions the following—"A hill in the Monghyr subdivision, situated close to the village of Jaynagar a little to the south-east of Lakhisarai. Tradition states that there was a fort on this hill built by Indradyumna, the last Hindu king of Magadha, and that he buried his treasure here. Remains of buildings constructed of brick and stone have been found here, and in the vicinity there are the foundations of other old buildings, cut stones and idols. A fuller description of the hill and its neighbourhood will be found in the article on Jaynagar. It is possible that this is the small solitary hill with a high double peak or with crags piled one above another, which Hsuen Tsiang mentions as the place where Buddha overcame the demon Vakula."

HUSAINABAD—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr, 1926* mentions the following—"A village in the south west of the Monghyr subdivision, situated three miles south of Sheikhpura. It contains the residence of one of the oldest Muhammadan families of the district, which traces back its descent to Makhdam Sheikh Shams ud-din, surnamed Faryad Ras Kurraish ul Hashmi, a Sayid of the family of the Prophet Muhammad. According to the family tradition, he was born in Turkey, but having come to India with his uncle Kazi Rafi ud-din, who held the office of *kazi* under the Sultan of Turkey, settled in Oudh and died there in 780 A. H., i.e. about 1373 A. D. His son Sheikh Manjhan Shahid was murdered while on a journey to Bihar, and thereupon his widow, with her two sons Sheikh Mustapha and Sheikh Junaid, settled at Sheikhpura. After the death of Sheikh Mustapha several of the family migrated to Patna, where their descendants still reside but about 1836 A. D. two of the family, Muhammad Yahya Khan and his son in law Fida Ali Khan left Patna and returned to this district, where they settled at Husainabad. The present representatives of the family are called *Niwabs* by courtesy, this title having been enjoyed by their ancestors,

some of whom were distinguished personages. Two of them, Nawab Shab Khan and Nawab Fida Khan, who met their death during the Maratha raids, were, it is said, *Wazirs* of the Emperors of Delhi, and it is claimed that the office of *Wazir* was hereditary in the house. The family was granted an *altamgha jagir* by the Emperor Aurangzeb, and Shah Alam gave Nawab Ali Ibrahim Khan a robe of honour, the appointment of Shah Hazari and the title of Amin ud daula Aziz ul Mulk.

Ali Ibrahim Khan, the most distinguished member of the family, is frequently and prominently referred to in the *Sau ul Mutakharin*, where he is described as 'the illustrious and high born Khan, the beneficent, munificent, excellent, learned, sincere and valiant'. He appears first to have won the favour of Ali Vardi Khan, who invited him to Murshidabad with other persons, distinguished for their birth, rank, learning and talents, and granted him a large pension. Subsequently, he became a trusted courtier of the Nawab Mir Kasim Ali Khan, to whom he proved a good counsellor. He tried to dissuade him against his disastrous expedition into Nepal and also to prevent his engaging in war with the British. It was he who advised against the Nawab stopping the boat laden with arms on its way to Patna which formed a *casus belli*, and later, after the defeat at Udhua Nullah, in vain urged him to release his English prisoners or at least send the women under escort to the British army under Major Adams. After the defeat of Mir Kasim at Patna, Ali Ibrahim Khan remained faithful to his master, and there is an amusing tale of his diplomatic conduct when a quarrel took place between the Nawab and his ally Shuja ud-daula, the Nawab Vizier of Oudh. Mir Kasim Ali, apparently to bring shame on the latter, assumed the dress of a *fakir*, and Ali Ibrahim Khan being asked to persuade him to assume his proper dress appeared before him wearing only a shirt and a pointed cap in place of his usual turban. After this, when Shuja ud-daula imprisoned Mir Kasim Ali, and his followers deserted Mir Kasim Ali Ibrahim Khan alone remained loyal, showing then, as on other occasions a fidelity uncommon in those troubled times. It is said that when asked why he still clung to Mir Kasim in spite of the way in which the latter maligned him, his manly and dignified answer brought tears to the eyes even of the mean spirited Nawab Vizier.

After the battle of Buxar, when Mir Kasim fled northwards, Ali Ibrahim Khan retired to Murshidabad and thence forward was largely involved in palace intrigues. He was appointed *Diwan* to the Nawab Mubarak ud-daula, and subsequently espoused the cause of Muhammad Reza Khan and effected his release from prison. He fell out, however, with the latter, and was ruined by a palace intrigue. Subsequently, he was offered high offices by the Nawab, Muni Begam and the Governor General, but declined them all. Later, however, we find that he accompanied Warren Hastings when he went

to Benares in 1781, and that after the repression of the rising of Chait Singh, Warren Hastings granted him a *khilat*, confirmed the title of Amin ud-daula Azizul Mulk, which had been granted to him by Shah Alam, and made him Judge of Benares. Further details of his life will be found in the *Sair ul Mutakharin*, which gives an amusing account of his character and ways, of his knack of making extempore verses, of the taste and elegance with which he wore his clothes and turban, of the urbanity of his manners, and of his successes as a lover.

The brother of this nobleman was Ali Kasim, of whom there is little to record, except that, when in 1781 Warren Hastings made his well known visit to Benares with Ali Ibrahim Khan to bring Chait Singh to reason, Ali Kasim Khan met them at Monghyr, entertained them on a lavish scale, and accompanied them to Patna. His son, Muhammad Yahya Khan, moved from Patna to Husainabad, and the next head of the family was his nephew and son in law Fida Ali Khan. The latter earned the thanks of Government for furnishing information regarding the movement of rebels in the Mutiny of 1857, while his son Nawab Ali Khan was made a Khin Bahadur, and granted a certificate in recognition of his conduct as an enlightened and loyal zamindar and of the service he rendered in the famine of 1874. The population is 2,419 (1951). There is a post office.

INDPE.—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following:—"A village in the Jamui subdivision, situated four miles south of Jamui and two miles north of Khaira. It contains the remains of a large fort attributed by local tradition to Indradyumna (called locally Indradaun), who is believed to have been the last of the Pala kings. The following account of the remains, as they were a century ago, is given by Dr Buchanan:—"The work is pretty extensive, the fort being a square of about 1,650 feet. The rampart of brick has been about 10 feet thick, and the ditch about 15 feet wide, so that neither could have been intended for any serious resistance to any army, but they were sufficient to guard against surprise or insurrection. The east face is rather irregular, being bent in south from the gate, which is not exactly in the middle, as is also the case with the western gate. In the northern and southern faces are no gates. Before the eastern gate are two heaps of bricks, that have been considerable buildings. Within the outer fort has been a citadel. To the left of the passage between the outer gate and that of the citadel, entering from the east, are two considerable heaps of bricks. That nearest is said to have been a temple of Siva, and a Priapus still remains. On the right, towards the north-east corner of the outer fort, are three very considerable heaps, surrounding four smaller. Towards the south-west corner of the inner fort, on its south side, is another heap, and these are the only traces of buildings in the outer fort."

On entering the citadel from the east, you have on the left a mound, which from its great height is by far the most conspicuous part of the whole building. It is said to have been a place (*chandini*) to which the Raja repaired to enjoy the freshness of the evening air, and this tradition is confirmed by the remains of a small terrace of brick, as usual in such places, that has been built on the top of the mound. The mound is, however, so very great a member of the whole, that I rather suspect it to have been a solid temple of a Buddha, as we know that the Rajas of this part of the country, immediately previous to the Muhammadan invasion, were of that sect. Beyond the mound is the royal palace, as it is called, raised on a lofty terrace 220 feet long by 110 wide. Traces remain to show that this terrace has been occupied by three apartments, where probably the Raja sat in state, while his family was lodged in wooden buildings, that have left no trace. The brick buildings in the outer fort, and without the eastern gate, were probably public offices and the officers and domestics of the family were perhaps accommodated in buildings of no durability sufficient to leave traces that are now observable."

The great mound referred to in this account marks the remains of an old stupa measuring 125 feet in diameter at its base by 35 feet in height. The base is now broader than it was owing to the accumulation of debris but the diameter of the mound is 65 feet at a height of only 20 feet from the base. It stands within an irregular enclosure of two walls and has a deep shaft sunk from the top. The place was clearly an extensive settlement, and many mounds still remain which would repay exploration.

In fact, Mr Beglar, who visited the place in 1872, says that he can 'confidently assert that a careful and thorough examination of the mounds, and especially of the great tope, will prove a great acquisition to the present meagre knowledge of ancient Indian structures.'

JAMALPUR—A town in the Monghyr subdivision situated six miles south of Monghyr and 299 miles from Calcutta, at a height of 173 feet above sea level. The town, which is picturesquely situated at the foot of the Kharagpur Hills, owes its development to its being the headquarters of the Mechanical Department of the East Indian Railway. The workshops were first established here in 1862. The place was at one time the headquarters of the Engineering, Traffic and Locomotive Running Departments but these Departments have been removed to Calcutta. The workshops are among the largest in India, covering an area of 133 1/2 acres, of which 45 7/10 acres are roofed over.

Achievements of the Workshop—Jamalpur Workshop was credited with complete erection of 452 Engines during the first ten years after its establishment and by 1873, 306 of these engines were

running on the line and the rest were either under repairs or kept as standbys. The boilers, wheels and axles and other major components were obtained from abroad but the minor component parts required for periodical overhaul were mostly manufactured in the Workshop. It would appear to be a fairy tale now if the incomparably low price, at which engines were purchased at that time were told. It is seen that in 1865, 67 passenger engines and 135 goods engines complete with tenders were purchased at a total cost of Rs 64,94,000 inclusive of loss on exchange.

*Railway Colony—starting construction of—*By 1868 the total strength of subordinate staff requiring accommodation at Jamalpur reached the figure of 336 for whom 132 rooms were constructed at a cost of Rs 1,76,000 the figures include 12 men then employed at Monghyr. The Railway Colony at Jamalpur, it appears, was already in the making by 1865. For construction of roads in the Colony for "comfort, health and convenience of Railway servants" the Government sanctioned a capital grant of Rs 5,000 (non recurring) through the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division, as Government's share for the scheme of construction of roads executed by the Railway. Shortly after the scheme was completed the Jamalpur Municipality was ushered into existence and the Railway started paying municipal taxes in respect of its holdings from 1868.

For long 38 years, since its establishment the Workshop had only steam as motive power to drive the machineries installed in it. Unfiltered water required for shop purposes used to be pumped from Monghyr by steam pumps in two stages into the tank, popularly called the North Tank. Drinking water for the Colony used to be drawn from the wells sunk in the compounds. It was in 1900 that the electrical power was first in evidence, being generated in a small power house installed in a building 130 feet long and 12 feet wide and 30 feet high equipped with 3 "U" type Bellies compound steam engines. In course of time steam was gradually replaced by electricity to serve as motive power to run the machineries. The different manufacturing processes having been considerably facilitated by electricity newer kinds of machines were gradually purchased and installed in the Workshop.

Electricity solved another vital problem of supply of drinking water to the residents in the Railway Colony, replacing as it did, the steam pumps with which water used to be pumped from the river Ganga. This supply was more often than not quite inadequate to the requirements of unfiltered water for shop use and was not available for use for drinking purposes. Gradually the arrangements for drinking water supply was wonderfully improved with electricity being used for pumping purposes resulting in a considerable increase in output. The present arrangements are unique in that water from Ganga at a distance of six miles is first pumped by the electrical

pumps installed on a pontoon, on to the reservoirs situated on the top of the hill near Jamalpur at a height of about 300 feet and after proper treatment there supplied to the residential buildings down below. These reservoirs were constructed in 1912 and opened by Sir Edward Gante, the then Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

Construction of Engines, etc—Besides erection and periodical overhaul of engines the Workshop is credited with the construction of engines, boilers and tenders. The following table will show the construction of such articles undertaken and completed from time to time —

- (i) 99 tenders were constructed between the years 1885 and 1913
- (ii) 216 smaller classes of engines were constructed during the 24 years from 1899 to 1923. Of the major components required for these engines only two items were purchased from abroad and the rest either fabricated or reclaimed from old and unserviceable stock, of the latter special mention may be made of the most important component i.e. wheel centres cast locally in the shops.
- (iii) 103 boilers were constructed in the shops between the years 1910 and 1926.

Training of Technical Personnel—Up to 1914 i.e. the year in which the first world war broke out all posts in the superior and subordinate supervising cadre used to be filled in by covenanted foreign personnel and Anglo Indians. When during the war many of such people left the country on active service abroad the necessity for training Indians to fill in such posts was first felt by the then Administration. After the cessation of hostilities arrangements were taken in hand to draw up a scheme for technically training suitable Indian candidates who might eventually fill in the posts in the above two cadres of the technical branch of the railway. It however took long five years for the scheme to be perfected and from 1925 regular recruitment of approved candidates for technical training in the Workshop was commenced. Before 1925 there were a few Indians recruited for such posts but the *modus operandi* followed in such recruitment was desultory as it varied from time to time. The Railway Technical School at Jamalpur which had been opened a few years before for imparting technical education to the trainees was placed on a firm and more rational basis in 1925 with a well balanced curriculum for technical education of the apprentices being introduced. The Technical School by now has turned out quite a large number of Mechanical Engineers who are filling in posts in both Class I and Class III services of the Railway. The technical fineness of the products of this school is at par, if not above with that of their confreres turned out by the Universities in the Country.

On 1st January, 1925, the management of the Railway was taken over by the State and the task of framing policy governing recruitment, conditions of service of the employees and other cognate matters came within the purview of the Legislative Assembly. This transfer of management was marked by a wholesome change towards progressive betterment of the service conditions of the employees. The erstwhile distinction, which was invidious in nature, existing between the European and Indian staff in regard to pay scales leave and other emoluments were levelled up in 1928-29 and a common pay scale was finally introduced in 1934 which had however come into force from July, 1931.

Present Lay out of the Workshop—The shops are at present spread over an area of 133·12 acres properly fenced round, of which 35·70 acres are roofed over. There are altogether 28 constituent shops subdivided into three distinct categories to facilitate the manufacture of the component parts of and repairs to Locomotives, particulars of which are given below —

(i) Finishing Shops	11
(ii) Manufacturing Shops including Foundries and Rolling Mill	14
(iii) Tools and Tinplate Shop, Insp. Finishing and Manufacturing	3

Manufacturing Shops—In the manufacturing group, the two Iron Foundries and one Brass and White Metal Foundry cast all ferrous and non ferrous engine components and other articles required for use by the Railway the most important of the ferrous materials cast are the D/O plates and the engine cylinders. Almost 90 per cent of the E. I. Railway's needs in respect of D/O plates and almost 100 per cent needs in respect of cylinders of the E. I. Railway and other Indian Railways are met by the materials fabricated in these shops. The Rolling Mill turns out re-rolled ferrous bars of different sections required for use in the Workshop. It would, however, be very interesting to note that many tons of non ferrous bars were also re-rolled in this Rolling Mill during the war years to meet the needs of the various Ordnance Factories. The Bolt and Nut Shop turns out bolts and nuts required by the different departments of the Railway. The casting and finishing of a 60 ton Anvil Block of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works in 1950 in this Workshop has been acclaimed to be a land mark in this history of Indian Foundries casting heavy materials.

Finishing Shops—In the Finishing Shops the different engine components fabricated in the Manufacturing Shops are properly machined and made ready for use. Besides these, materials required for consumption by other departments are also finished for use. The efficiency of the operations done in these shops is very aptly illustrated by the fact that there was not a single rejection by the Ordnance

Factory at Kukee from the stock of 3 inches Trench Mortar Bombs manufactured and finished in these shops at a rate of 50,000 per year during the 1st war. The precision and finish with which these articles were manufactured were really praiseworthy. The periodical and intermediate repairs to Locomotives are carried out by the Shops in the Finishing Group. During the ninety years of their eventful life, in which considerable changes have taken place towards improvement, these constituent shops have treated and overhauled at a very modest estimate, approximately 30,000 engines coming for periodical hospitalisation with major ailments in their constitutional set up. But the total annual engine outturn at times reached the peak of 400 engines. The total number of engines treated for minor ailments through intermediate repairs during this period is in the neighbourhood of 11,000. The cost of overhaul of engines is in the vicinity of Rs 10 lakhs a month. This is, however, no small an achievement specially in view of the fact that this rate of outturn was uniformly maintained during the two most critical periods once in 1934 after a divine visitation in the form of the terrible Bihar Earthquake and the other in 1947 after the political upheaval resulting from the unfortunate partition of the country and the resultant interchange of staff. But credit goes to the workers who with grim determination under the able leadership of those above them, rose equal to the occasions and warded off the calamity which might have otherwise proved fatal, to this beloved concern of theirs which has given them bread for generations. The Eastern Railway Mechanical Workshop at Jamalpur has thus turned the corner round and is now on its way to further progress.

Motive Power—The motive power for running the entire series of component shops is supplied by the Railways own Electrical Power House of the capacity of 8,300 K W transmitted through 911 Nos of Motors of 9,468 H P situated within the four walls of the Workshops. The electrical energy was first harnessed for industrial operation in the year 1900. Two German Walter & Co Water Tube Boilers are under installation to replace two drum and two three drum B & W Water Tube Boilers. This will considerably increase the quantity of electrical energy now being generated.

Duty Hours—The duty hours observed in these shops are from 7 to 11 hours (morning spell) and from 12 noon to 16 hours (after noon spell) with an hour's break from 11 hours to 12 noon on week days and from 7 hours to 12 noon on Saturdays. The administrative offices observe duty hours as from 10 to 17 hours with half an hour's break from 13 to 13 30 hours on week days, and from 8 to 12 hours on Saturdays.

Strength of Personnel—both Workshops and otherwise—The daily number of staff employed is now a little over 14 thousand including all classes of staff.

Accommodation for Staff—The Workshop at Jamalpur is pre-eminently situated in a rural area although the small township growing round it possesses modern amenities of life e.g., water supply and electricity. There are only 752 units of Railway quarters of different types available at the station whereas the total number of staff of Mechanical, Electrical, Accounts, Stores, Medical and Engineering Departments is in the neighbourhood of 16 000. Out of this total number for about 11,000 workers of all Departments, who are residents of the outlying villages, free transport is provided by the Railway by three Workmen's Trains plying between Jamalpur and three railway stations two of which are situated at a distance of 19 and 15 miles each way and the other at a distance of six miles only.

Hospital—A fully equipped hospital including a modern X-Ray plant is maintained by the Railway to cater for the needs of the staff. The hospital provides for 120 beds and its operation theatre is equipped with modern appliances in view of Jamalpur being an industrial town. The main hospital is situated in ideal environments at the foot of a hill, not very close to the Workshop, and is efficiently managed. The total cost per bed during 1950-51, including charges for supervision was Rs 2,235.

Educational Facilities—There are at present four Railway schools run at the cost of the Railway for education of the children of the employees up to the High School standard. Total number of students reading in these four schools is in the vicinity of 1 000. Besides ten non-railway schools in the area adjoining Jamalpur are receiving annual financial aid from the Railway.

There has also been opened a degree college at Jamalpur, viz the Jagjivan Ram Sramik Mahavidyalay, with a bulk financial contribution by the Railway authority.

Sports and Pastimes—Besides the two Railway institutes which provide for outdoor and indoor recreations for staff, the Jamalpur Sports Association, which is a premier sports organisation in the State of Bihar, conducts all kinds of sports for its members and holds annual sports meets.

Welfare Organisation—The Welfare Organisation always maintains a personal contact with the workers and settles their grievances quickly with the result there has not been any major labour trouble in the recent years. There is a well run canteen.

Co-operative Stores—There are two properly registered co-operative stores run by the Railway workers, one of them was established in 1892 and the other in 1942.

Humanitarian Work done by the Staff and the Administration—The terrible earthquake of 1934, besides taking a toll of 23 lives in

the Workshop, the station and the Colony, caused an extensive damage to the Railway property. Quite a number of residential buildings and the brick built structures in the Workshop area were razed to the ground and those left still standing were in no way secure for habitation. The destruction thus caused, led to an elaborate scheme for reconstruction of both station and office buildings and residential quarters having to be very quickly undertaken by the Railway. The entire scheme was pushed through to completion in an inconceivably short period of four years. The residential quarters constructed in the post earthquake scheme are all provided with the two essential amenities, viz., filtered water supply and flush privies—the superior types of quarters are besides electrically fitted. Supply of electricity to the rest of the quarters is at present engaging the serious attention of the Railway Administration.

The morale of the Railway workers, had never before been put to a harder test than during the difficult days immediately following the earthquake, when they rose to a man to relieve the distress of the sufferers irrespective of whether they were Railway workers or otherwise. The community spirit of the Railway workers got an excellent impetus under the stress of this appalling disaster. The Railway Administration sanctioned an advance of Rs 33,000 to their 3,000 affected workers as a measure of immediate relief.

Similarly during 1947, after the unfortunate partition of the country, the local administration with the help of a band of social workers amongst the employees arranged for a wonderful reception of the 751 refugee employees with their families coming from the old N W and B A Railways. Care was taken to ensure that maximum comfort was afforded to the unfortunate persons. The refugee staff on arrival at this station were supplied free meals at the cost of the Railway for first three days and housed in an old military camp properly remodelled for habitation with primary amenities of water supply and electricity. The Railway Administration also gave employments to quite a large number of unattached refugees.

JAIMANGALGARH—Is a site of historical and archæological importance, twelve miles north of Begusarai. On an excavation of the site a number of relics belonging to remote past have been unearthed. They were found when an old tank 300 feet long and 100 feet wide was being excavated for public use. The western bank of the tank cuts through the outer wall of the settlement site. Three rows of wooden posts—five posts in each row and each at a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet are to be seen approximately in the middle of the tank. In addition to this two outer posts—one in the left and other in the near—are also visible.

On exploration terra-cottas, glazed ware, an iron sickle and other articles were found.

A proper excavation has not yet been done. On the evidence of the finds it would not be unreasonable to suggest that the site belongs to the Post-Sunga Age. Jaimangalgarh also yielded in December, 1955 a hoard of coins out of which only 3 silver coins could be procured. Most of these coins (of the hoard) belonged to the Tughluq period.*

JAMUI.—Headquarters of the subdivision of the same name situated four miles south-west of the Jamui Station on the main line of the East Indian Railway. It has a population of 11,594 persons according to 1951 census. The town is connected by a good tar macadam road with the Jamui Railway Station, which consists for the most part of one long street forming a continuation of the Mallepur Road. On either side lie the shops and dwellings of the grain merchants and other shopkeepers, while minor roads branch out at right angles, leading to the non-trading parts of the town and to the residences of the professional classes. The bridge gulfing the Kiul river lying in between Jamui and Mallepur gave way due to high floods in the year 1949. A new bridge has now been constructed.

On approaching Jamui from the railway station, the first public buildings met with are the Co-operative Bank, the High School, the Subdivisional Office and the Subdivisional Magistrate's residence, masonry buildings of the ordinary kind. On the opposite side of the road is the Munsif's court. About a quarter of a mile within the town, in a clear open space, stands the police-station. Immediately behind it is the sub-jail and behind this again is the charitable dispensary, which was completed in 1874. In front of the *thana* compounds stands the Gilani Girls' M. E. School which was established in the year 1939. The name of the school was given after the name of the then S. D. O., M. S. G. Gilani. There is also a high school for boys. The other public buildings in this town are the Excise warehouse, the Sub-Registrar's Office, the Mukhtears' Association building and the Local Board Office, and a veterinary dispensary. There are also the offices of the Grow More Food Officer, the P. W. D. S. D. O., the S. D. O., I/C Waterways Division and the Excise Inspector, recently started and located in rented house. There is a Union Committee at Jamui. In a building with a fairly big compound situated in front of the S. D. O.'s residence on the other side of the road is located the office of the Congress Committee, Jamui and inside it there is a public library with a beautiful collection of books called the Gandhi Adhyayan Mandal. A children's park has been established in the year 1950 and is situated on the eastern side of the S. D. O.'s court compound. To the adjacent east of the children's park is the well-furnished District Board Dak Bungalow. There is a deep tank by the side of the

* Vide Bulletin no. 4, March, 1959, JANS and Museum, G. D. College, Begusarai, edited by Prof. R. K. Choudhury.

children's park which was desilted in the year 1951 with a view to provide labour to the poor section of the mass who were in distress due to the scarcity conditions then obtaining in the subdivision. There is a landing ground three miles to the south west to Jamui. Jamui is a rainfall recording station. Although it lies within the great gangetic rice plain, the town shares in the slope of the country from Chakai and the Hazaribagh plateau northwards. This circumstance and the proximity of the Kail ensure excellent drainage and render it one of the healthiest places in the district. To the south of the town is an extensive old fort called Indpigarh, already described in this chapter.

Jamui as a town has now made much improvement in spite of the insanitary roads and a number of *kutchas* buildings on the main road. There is a first grade college at Jamui and a number of educational institutions. There is a provincialised State hospital in charge of a Civil Assistant Surgeon and there is also a Lady Assistant Civil Surgeon. A number of Government offices have been located at Jamui. There is facility of petrol pumps on the main roads and motor vehicular traffic has become very heavy. There are now a number of passenger buses connecting Jamui with Monghyr and other important places in the district. Opposite the Dak Bungalow is a maidan which is commonly known as Nehru Maidan, as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, had addressed from this maidan.

Jamui has a certain amount of commercial importance for grains and timber. There is an electric power house.

JAMUI SUBDIVISION—The southern subdivision of the district lying between 24°-22' and 25°-7' N and 85°-49' and 86°-37' E with an area of 1,276 square miles. At the time of census of 1901 it comprised an area of 1,593 square miles and its population was 5,51,227 as compared with 5,53,917 in 1891. The Sheikhpura *thana* which then formed part of it has since been transferred with the Barbigha Outpost to the Monghyr subdivision and the population of the Jamui subdivision as it constituted in 1925 was 3,70,695 and according to the census of 1951 it came to 5,33,079. This subdivision is the least densely populated part of the district, supporting only 419 persons per square mile owing to the fact that in the south it merges in the Chotanagpur plateau and contains large area of jungle. It contains 1,538 villages one of which Jamui is its headquarters. There are five police stations in this subdivision, viz., Jamui, Lachhamipur, Sikandra, Jhaja and Chakai. There are police beat houses at Chandermandih, Simultala and Charkapathal each under the charge of a Sub Inspector of Police.

JAYNAGAR—A small village in the Monghyr subdivision situated close to the Lakhisarai Railway Station. This place is said to be the stronghold of a Hindu chief of Magadha called

Indardaun, who according to local legend, was defeated by a Muhammadan called Makhdum Maulana Nur, whose tomb is at Khagaul, half a mile to the north of the railway station. Indardaun has been identified with Indradyumna, the last of the Palā kings who was conquered by the Muhammadan invaders under Bakhtiyar Khilji.

The name Jaynagar belongs properly to the position on the south, to which Indradyumna is said to have retired after his defeat by the Muhammadans. The position is formed by two short ridges of small rocky hillocks running parallel from west to east, the opening to the west being closed by an earthen rampart, and that to the east by what were massive works, but are now mere mounds. Between the ridges there are two long parallel mounds, which have every appearance of being—as the people say they are—the ruins of the houses of a street or *bazar*. On the top of the northern ridge there was once a building of some kind, probably a stupa, and on the southern ridge there are the foundations and part of the walls of a small monastery. The walls have large dressed stones on both faces, and there are quantities of bricks lying about the ruins, as well as on a spur below the monastery, which was levelled to form a terrace for building. To the west and south of the hills there are many fine tanks. According to the people, there are *atharah ganda pokhar*, or “eighteen four i.e., seventy two tanks.” On the north west there is a fine sheet of water, upwards of a mile in length from north to south, which has been formed by embankments extending from the western end of the northern ridge. Jaynagar is believed to be the most southerly portion of a city, which once extended for four miles along the bank of the Kiul river. General Cunningham points out that it corresponds in position with the *Lo-ni nilo* of Hsuen Tsiang, which lay 200 li, or 33 miles, to the west of Hiranya Parvata, i.e., Monghyr, and he considers it probable that the Chinese syllables may be only a faulty rendering of Kiul.

Close to the top of the northern ridge the villagers say that Indradyumna had his treasury, which was sealed with a magic seal but all that can be seen is plain, smooth rock, perhaps artificially smoothed. It is said that Indradyumna had a trusted warrior, whom he raised to the highest posts, until at least he asked for the hand of his master's daughter in marriage. The king was very angry, and had a cavern made in which he placed all his treasure. When all was safely stowed away, the king invited his general to see his treasury, and when he unsuspectingly went in, let fall the trap door and sealed it with a magic seal. It was not long before he suffered for thus killing his best general, for the Muhammadans came down and drove him a fugitive from place to place, until he was obliged to fly to Orissa. His last place of refuge is still pointed out—a natural cavern on the top of southern ridge. [Reports, Arch Surv Ind., Vol III, pp 159 160, Vol VII, pp 118 119]

JHAJHA—A railway station on the Eastern Railway situated in the south east of Jamui subdivision at a distance of 20 miles from Jamui. It is a growing township and has a population of 10,466 according to 1951 census. The original name of this place was Nawadih but to prevent confusion with other places having similar names, the Railway authorities named the station Jhajha. It is an engine changing station having a big yard for goods traffic. The railway staff are provided with quarters. There is a railway dispensary with two doctors of the rank of Assistant Surgeon. A lady health visitor is also posted here for the benefit of the staff. Sanitation of the railway colony is looked after by the railway authorities and is managed by a committee consisting of railway officials. There are two clubs for the recreation of the staff. A power house has been installed for the supply of electricity to the railway colony and the station. There is an Anglo-Indian School and M. E. School. A H. E. School is run in the M. E. School building in shifts. With the growth of this station the general population has also increased. There is a fairly big market outside the railway colony area called Jhajha Bazar. There is a police station, a district board dispensary, a district board dak bungalow, a Forest Range Office and Office of the Central Excise Inspector here. A Circle Officer who is of the status of Junior Civil Service, is also stationed at this place. It is a big centre for *biris* manufacture and about 30,000 people residing in the far flung areas of Jhajha *thana* get employment in manufacturing *biris* at and around Jhajha. There is a Union Committee outside the railway area to look after the sanitation of the local people.

KABAR TAL—A lake in the north of the Begusarai subdivision, about eight miles in length and two miles in breadth formerly flowed through the north of the district. It is of no great depth in places, and a portion generally dries up in time to allow rice to be sown broadcast in May, the crop being reaped from boats in November. The water, except where it is very deep, is covered with a thick growth of tall reeds, which give shelter to numerous water fowl, so that the lake is one of the best shooting grounds in the district. It also swarms with fish, and is an important source of the fish supply of the people.

There is an island in the lake known as Monkey Island, from the number of monkeys which frequent it. The island is a sacred spot, and when the Permanent Settlement was concluded in 1793, not only was it allowed to remain revenue free, but Government made a yearly grant for the express purpose of feeding the monkeys and keeping alight a lamp which burnt day and night in a small temple on the island. This grant was continued until 1852, when it was discovered that the light had been extinguished and the monkeys had not been fed, the money being misappropriated by the priests. The grant was accordingly withdrawn. Palm trees abound

on the island, but they are never tapped, for the people believe that they would yield blood instead of toddy.

The temple above mentioned is a small shrine dedicated to Jaimangala, another name for the goddess Durga or Bhavani, a painted figure of whom may be seen in the niche opposite the low door in front. The building is believed to be very ancient, and considerable sanctity attaches to it, pilgrims coming to it from distant parts, especially during the Durga Puja. It is also visited by villagers from the neighbourhood on Tuesdays and Saturdays, these being auspicious days. This is the only temple on the island, which is overgrown with jungle and traversed only by rough tracks. Badly burnt bricks may be found here and there, and a number of cannon balls have been found, so that it is probable that the island was originally a fort. This hypothesis is rendered more probable by the fact that the place is known as Jaimangalgarh, i.e., the fort of Jaimangala. It is situated four miles east of Cheria Bariarpur and twelve miles north of Begusarai.

KHAGARIA TOWN.—A fast growing town in the Khagaria subdivision with subdivisional headquarters, is situated on the river Gandak at a distance of about three miles from its junction with the Ganga. In 1921 census, it returned a population of 9,521 souls as against 10,050 in 1951 census. It is an important trade centre, a large proportion of the chillies and grain exported from the north and north-west of the district, and from the Darbhanga district passing through it. Merchants from far and near corners of India have come and settled down here. The town has a station on the North-Eastern Railway, which passes over a large bridge of seven spans, with a waterway of 650 feet constructed over the Gandak about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the west. There are several Government offices, post and telegraph office, a degree college, police-station, district board bungalow and a subdivisional hospital. Fish, cheese, grains and chillies are exported from Khagaria.

KHADIGRAM.—About ten miles away from Jamui on the Jamui-Monghyr Road in village Numer is situated the Khadigram in the valley of two hills. It is the headquarters of the Akhil Bhartiya Sarva Sewa Sangh and a reputed Bhoodan training centre.

This is one of the centres where Gandhiji's philosophy of life is being pursued. The centre is now in charge of Shri Dharendra Nath Mazumdar. Khadigram is a new name for village Numer. The population of Numer according to 1951 census is 1,765.

There is a post office with registration facilities.

KHAIRA.—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following:—"A village in the Jamui subdivision, situated five miles south-east of Jamui. It contains the residence of one of the leading zamindars of the district, who belongs to a branch of the family of the Maharaja Bahadur of Gidhaur. The legend

accounting for the separation of the two branches has already been given in the article on Gidhaur, and it will be sufficient to state that the founder of the family is said to have been Hari Singh, the eldest son of Puran Mal, Raja of Gidhaur. Hari Singh was kept at Delhi, presumably as a hostage for the loyalty of his father. On the death of the latter, his younger brother was installed as Raja, and, on his return, Hari Singh agreed to accept a portion of the estate. The original seat of the ancestors of both families appears to have been at the foot of the hills near Khaura, where the remains of an old stone fort and of other buildings may still be traced in the jungle. Close by and in better preservation are the remains of a large masonry fort known as Naulakhiagarhi (q v), the erection of which is by local tradition ascribed to Sher Shah, but which may once have been the seat of the family. The late head of the family, Ram Narayan Singh, received the title of Raja Bahadur from Government. Kumar Guru Prasad Singh, son of Raja Bahadur Ram Narayan Singh, sold the estate in January, 1919, to a syndicate of which Rai Bahadur Baijnath Goenka was the principal member. The sale was impeached by the younger brother of Kumar Guru Prasad Singh, on the ground that the estate was inalienable by custom. The litigation has not yet (1925) come to an end, but Kumar Baijnath Singh has failed, in the court of the subordinate judge of Monghyr and in the Patna High Court, in his attempt to have the sale set aside. The estate has now vested in the Government.

There is a post office with registration facilities

KHARAGPUR—It was once a place of some importance, of which the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following—"A village in the Monghyr subdivision situated close to the eastern flank of the Kharagpur Hills, 25 miles south east of the town of Monghyr and 12 miles from the railway station of Bariarpur. Population (1921) 2,189 * Historically Kharagpur is one of the most interesting places in the district. According to tradition, the surrounding country was originally held by an aboriginal race, called Khetauris, who were ruled by 52 chiefs. Three Rajput brothers, named Dandu Rai, Basdeo Rai and Mahendar Rai took service with Raja Sisanka the Khetauri Chief of Klierhi, a small principality, ten or twelve miles south-east of Monghyr. In the course of the wars in which they engaged they collected a large following of Rajputs, and at last, when strong enough, rose in the night on their master, murdered him and his family, and assumed his power. They then entered on a series of successful contests with the neighbouring chiefs, and are credited with conquering all the 52 Khetauri chiefs. The eldest of the three brothers was Dandu Rai, and he passed on the chiefship to his son, Rnp Sah

* The population according to 1951 census is 7549. It is the headquarters of a Block Development Officer and there are post offices and schools.

Coming to historical times, tradition relates that the ruling chief in the time of Jahangir was Sangram Sah, who was summoned to Delhi to do homage to the Emperor. He refused to obey the summons, and his disobedience led to the advance of a punitive force. Sangram Sah took up a strong position in the defile of Markan, but one of his soldiers went over to the enemy's camp, and agreed to assassinate him in return for a large reward. Coming up while Sangram Sah was praying, the traitor shot him through the head. This act of treachery, however, had little immediate result, for Chandrajot, his widow, so valiantly resisted. Baz Bahadur, the leader of the Mughal troops, that, at last despairing of success and wishing to end a contest with a woman, he proposed an armistice. This being agreed to, Baz Bahadur persuaded the Rani that she should go to the Imperial Court and obtain the Emperor's favour, offering to intercede for her. When the Rani arrived at Delhi, her son Toral Mal was thrown into prison, but Baz Bahadur succeeded in obtaining his release.

Toral Mal was induced to change his religion and become a Musalman, being given the name of Rozafzun. The daughter of a noble was given him in marriage, and afterwards a cousin of the Emperor himself. He was advanced to the rank of *mansabdar* of 3 000 horse, while the command of 2,000 horse was given to each of his children, Bihruz Shah and Abdul Shah. Eventually Toral Mal returned to Kharagpur with his wife, leaving Abdul as an hostage at Delhi, and died about A. D. 1635. The Mughal historians give a different account of the career of Toral Mal, or to give him his Muhammadan name Rozafzun.

He was succeeded by Bihruz Shah, who according to the chronicles of the family, added to the already large estate, being rewarded for his services in the Kabul war by the grant of *chakla* Midnapore, in which he built a town and named it Kharagpur. Of his successors there is little of interest to record till the time of Muzaffar Ali, who fell under the displeasure of the Nawab Kasim Ali. A military force being sent to dispossess him, he fled to Ramgarh, whence he was induced to return in the hope of a reconciliation, but on his arrival at Monghyr, he was seized and kept a prisoner. On the downfall of Kasim Ali, Muzaffar Ali obtained his liberty, but did not recover his property, which was placed in charge of an *amil* or manager.

Dr Buchanan Hamilton gives some further details regarding the history of the family. Muzaffar's son, Faiz Ali, having appealed to the British Agent at Patna, the property was restored to him, but an *amil*, Abu Talib, was left at Kharagpur to protect the interests of the Company. This officer soon accused the Raja of turbulence, and he was again deprived of all authority, his house plundered, and his family thrown into prison, but he himself escaped into the jungle fastnesses of a rebel hill chief, Jagannath Deo.

The Raja now sent an agent to Murshidabad, and complained to Muzaffar Jang, who issued orders to Shitab Rai, the Governor of Bihar, to see justice done. On this, Faiz Ali and the other members of the Raja's family were released from prison, and Abu Talib recalled. That officer, knowing the fate that awaited him, took poison, and his whole wealth was secured by Shitab Rai, who restored nothing to the family, but sent another officer, who allowed the Raja no more authority than before. The Raja then sent his son and his *diwan*, or minister, with another complaint to Murshidabad, but on the way they met Shitab Rai, who sent the son back and persuaded the *diwan* to accompany him to Calcutta. The Raja believing that the latter had betrayed him, sent another agent, Rudra Mohan by name, to Calcutta, who gave security, and obtained an order that the management of the estate should be restored to the Raja.

About this time the house of the *kanungo* of Kharagpur was robbed, and the *amil* immediately charged the Raja with the crime, which his family of course denied. The charge, however, was believed by Government, and a European subaltern, Mr. Clerk, with two companies of soldiers, was sent to punish him. The Raja retired to the forests, but deputed his son to meet the officer. When the young man came within a day's journey of the troops, some *ghatwals* informed Mr. Clerk that he was not alone, and intended to fight. Thereupon the English soldiers marched by night and surprising the party, killed many, but the Raja's son made his escape. After this, Mohan Singh, a Rajput *ghatwal*, informed Mr. Clerk where the Raja was concealed and the force advancing suddenly caught him and sent him to Patna, where he was put in irons. In 1770 he petitioned against the *ghatwals* and the *amil*. They were called before Shitab Rai, their accusations declared groundless and the Raja released from prison, but ordered to remain at Patna. A few years later (1774-9), Captain Browne appears to have administered the tract in the extreme south as part of the Jungleterry after the Raja had been ousted from his property. In 1781, however, Warren Hastings ordered the estate to be restored to the Raja Kadir Ali.

Kadir Ali was succeeded by Ikbal Ali Khan, after whom came Rahmat Ali, the last of the family who was Raja of Kharagpur. In 1839 he fell into arrears of revenue, in consequence he alleged of embezzlements by his agents at Monghyr who had quite enough money in their possession to pay the Government demand. The whole of his great property, except Haveli Kharagpur, was sold on the 29th January 1840, and Raja Bidyanand Singh of Purnea and Balanath Sahu became the purchasers. In 1845 the remaining estate of the Raja met with a similar fate, being purchased by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. Rahmat Ali Khan died in 1852, and was buried at the entrance of his Imambara. Some descendants of Rahmat Ali are still living in reduced circumstances.

The Kharagpur Raj was at one time a great principality extending from the south of Monghyr to the south of Bhagalpur and the Santal Parganas, and marching with the northern boundary of the territory held by the Birbhum Rajas. Kharagpur itself contains few remains to attest the former greatness of its Rajas. There is, however, a ruined palace built by Raja Biluruz, adjoining which is a three-domed mosque picturesquely situated on the river Man. A marble slab in one of the walls shows that it was built in 1068 A. H., i.e., 1656 A. D. during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahān. Three miles from Kharagpur there are two temples and two tanks standing opposite to one another on each side of the road leading to Tarapur. The place is said to have been a hunting seat of the Rajas of Kharagpur while they were still Rajputs. The temples and tanks on the south of the road are ascribed to one of the Rajas and those on the north to Chandravati, one of the Ranas. They are accordingly known as *Rajarani Talao*.

Kharagpur is now perhaps best known for a large reservoir constructed fifty years ago when the Kharagpur estate, with the rest of the property of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, was under the management of the Court of Wards. It is formed by a dam built, two miles west of Kharagpur, across the Man river, which at this point debouches through a narrow gorge in the hills. To the south-west the gorge widens out into a valley hemmed in on all sides by low but abrupt hills and here a large reservoir has been formed by the accumulation of the river water and of the drainage from the hills and valleys. This reservoir irrigates about 18,000 acres and forms a beautiful lake, which according to Mr. Lockwood rivals the renowned lakes of Killarney.

About a mile or two above the dam is a picturesque waterfall, called Panchkumari or the five princesses. In the neighbourhood is a hill also called Panchkumari, a name explained by the following legend. It is said that the five daughters of the Raja of Kharagpur took refuge there when their father was taken prisoner to Delhi. Being unable to escape from their Muhammadan pursuers they killed themselves by jumping from a precipice, preferring death to dishonour. At the foot of the hill is a spot where the Raja is said to have committed *sati* on hearing that the Raja had been put to death at Delhi.

About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south west of the Panchkumari fall, not far from Karmantari village, is a group of hot springs known as Lakshmikund which emerge from crevices in rocks on the west side of a narrow torrent bed some distance above and not far north of the lake, into which they discharge. These springs which were not noticed by Buchanan, are most conveniently reached from Kharagpur, eight miles to the north-east, by taking a boat across the lake. On the 1st of November, 1917, Mr. V. H. Jackson found that the temperature of eight of the eleven principal outflows was over 146°, while the

temperature at the largest was 151.3° , which is higher than the maximum temperature recorded in the Bhimbandh or Janamkund groups, which these springs closely resemble. As at both of the latter groups of springs, there is another series of springs lower down, which are distinctly cooler.

KHARAGPUR HILLS—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following—"A range of hills situated immediately to the south of Monghyr town, and so called after the town of Kharagpur, which lies at the foot of the hills to the east. These hills, which are an offshoot from the northern face of the Vindhya Hills, measure 30 miles in length, with an average breadth of 24 miles. Although the group lithologically resembles the Vindhya Hills, it contains within its valleys, and on some of its higher peaks rocks of a much softer nature, such as quartzite, chlorite schist, hornblende, etc. In the interior are several valleys, precipices, hot springs, hill torrents, quarries and a few villages. The hills nowhere rise to a greater height than 1,628 feet, which is the height of the high table topped hill 13 miles south of Monghyr, named Maruk. They gradually converge towards Monghyr town, where they dip under the Ganges, in the bed of which there is an outcrop of bare quartz rock. A small hill, named Pirpahar, about three miles east of the station, forms the most northerly point of the hills, which terminate in a perpendicular bluff overhanging the old bed of the Ganges."

KIUL—About the place the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the following—"A village in the Monghyr subdivision, situated 34 miles, by rail, from Monghyr, on the eastern bank of the Kiul river. The river is spanned by a fine lattice girder bridge of 9 spans of 150 feet each, and there is a large railway station, Kiul being a junction of the loop and chord lines of the East Indian Railway with the South Bihar Railway. The village is small, uninteresting and modern, owing its creation to the railway, but the neighbourhood has some interest to the archaeologist on account of the remains which have been found. To the south is the small village of Kowaya, which appears to have been built upon part of an ancient city, for the land is a succession of undulating mounds abounding in old bricks and broken images. On the bank of the river, close to the hamlet called Brindaban, there is a conspicuous mound, upwards of 30 feet in height, which evidently marks the remains of a solid brick stupa. It was excavated by General Cunningham, and a depth of 6 feet, or 25 feet above ground level, a small chamber was uncovered, which contained a relic casket of pale yellow steatite in the shape of a stupa and a small figure of Buddha of the same material. Inside the casket was a small golden box containing a fragment of bone, and a broken silver box of the same shape and size with a green glass head. General Cunningham

conjectured that the building was of late date, i.e., not earlier than the 9th or 10th century A.D., and this supposition was confirmed by a subsequent discovery. On the eastern face of the mound a small arched chamber was unearthed, and the bottom were 200 or 300 seals of lac. On the western side a smaller chamber was discovered, in which were four bronze images, a steatite image of Buddha, and a large earthenware jar filled with lac seals, of which altogether 2,700 were counted. These seals on examination were found to be of four different kinds and were presumably the official seals of a monastery located here. The characters of the writing showed that they were engraved in the 10th or 11th century A.D. This mound appears to have been made a quarry for bricks, but a portion still remains, and close by is another mound, which apparently marks the site of an old monastery. General Cunningham has conjectured that Kiul may be an altered form of the name which Hiuen Tsiang has handed down as Lo-in ni lo**.

Kiul now is one of the main railway junctions in Bihar. The main line connects Calcutta and Delhi. The loop line takes off from here and runs to Sealdah Railway Station (Calcutta) connecting Jamalpur (for Monghyr), Bhagalpur, Sahebganj and Pakur in Bihar. The South Bihar branch runs from Kiul to Gaya connecting Sheikhpura, Warsaliganj, Nawadah, etc. The railway station has a waiting hall, refreshment room, bookstall, etc. The number of railway porters runs beyond one hundred. Kiul handles transhipment of goods by the railway. The recent opening up of Barauni by a *rail cum* road bridge from Mokameh enhances the importance of Kiul. The 1951 census population of Kiul is 1,715 and has a good number of Railwaymen. There are post-offices and schools.

KUNDAR—It is a place about six miles from Jamui and about two miles west from Mallehpur. It is the head work of Lower Kiul Valley Canal System under construction. The population is 1,002 according to 1951 census.

KUNDGHAT—It is about six miles away in the south of Sikandra and one mile from Lachhuar. There is a temple of Kundeshwari Devi which is held sacred by the Jains. Presently it is the head work of the Kundghat scheme which has been completed. It is a part of village Mathurapur.

KHAGARIA SUBDIVISION—The subdivision of Khagaria, the north eastern portion of the district of Monghyr, is situated between 25° 15' and 25° 50' north latitude, 86° 20' and 86° 51' east longitude. It extends over an area of 752 square miles and according to the census of 1951 has a population of 5,84,625 persons.

Formerly the district of Monghyr, the most westerly district of the Bhagalpur Division, consisted of only three subdivisions, namely,

* Reports, Arch. Surv. Ind., Vol. III pp 156—8

Sadar, Jamui and Begusarai, but in the year 1944, a new subdivision of Khagaria was created in order to cope with the manifold problems which beset the administration of the State particularly because of the various difficulties arising out of a lack of easy means of communications

The entire subdivision is situated to the north of the Ganga, in the north eastern sector of the district. The subdivision is bounded on the north by Bangaon of Madhepura *thana* of Saharsa district, on the west by Rosera *thana* of the district of Darbhanga as well as Begusarai, on the south by the Gandak as well as the Ganga and on the east by Kishanganj *thana* of the district of Purnea and *thana* Bihpur of the district of Bhagalpur

Except on the south which is bounded by the Gandak and the Ganga, all the boundaries on the other sides are artificial

This subdivision is an extensive plain formed by the rich alluvial soil brought down by a number of rivers and streams, such as the Ganga, the Gandak, the Bagmati, the Kamla, and the Koshi. The Ganga forms the southernmost boundary of the subdivision in three *thanas*, namely, Parbatta, Gogri and Khagaria. Between the Ganga and the Gandak there is a *diara* land, known as Rahimpur Diara with 22 *tolas*, which form an extensive plain of fertile soil which is always affected by the two rivers. The southern portion is divided by the North Eastern Railway which runs through the whole of the subdivision from the western end to a few miles east to the Pasraha Railway Station. At a distance of a few miles from Khagaria flow the Bagmati with its undulating course passing through the low lying portions of the *thana* and going across the *thana* of Choutham and then ultimately falls near Choutham in the Ghaghri which is an important tributary of the Koshi. The Kamla and the Koshi and their branches flow through the northern portion of Bakhtiarpur and form the main channel of Ghaghri. From Badla ghat to Koparia on the N. E. Railway line the low lying lands are swampy and are flooded during the rains. These rivers have comparatively narrow channel and enter this subdivision from the east and the north. Immediately after a heavy fall in the Sub Himalayan tracts from which they debouch they frequently overflow their banks and submerge a considerable area under water.

During the recent years an embankment was constructed on the southern side of the Bagmati from Bahadurpur on the extreme western side up to Malpa at a cost of about Rs. 3,80,000 extending about 43 miles in length. The construction was completed in the year 1952. During that year the *bandh* proved very useful to the people of the area as it prevented the water flowing through the Bagmati from travelling towards the places to the south of the river. The result was that a vast area of land between the N. E. Railway line on the south west and the Bagmati on the north east could be

saved from the devastating floods and causing thereby a very satisfactory production of maize and paddy crops. The area thus covered was about 25 miles in length and 5 to 6 miles in breadth.

Formerly before the construction of the *bandh* this area had become very swampy and the people could not get a good yield of crops but during the year 1952 the yield was quite satisfactory and gave a great relief to the agriculturists. Unfortunately, however, the *bandh* proved to be useless during the succeeding years 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957. Wide breaches occurred on the Kalwara *Bandh* in the district of Darbhanga in 1953 and owing to some faulty arrangements in the Begusarai subdivision, flood water entered into the area from the west and the south. Flood water also with considerable force rushed into the area from the north western side as a result of which some breaches were caused on the Bagmati *Bandh* at certain places. The result was that practically the whole of Khagaria *thana* lying between the Bagmati *Bandh* and the railway line was severely affected. Large scale flood relief had to be taken up.

The year 1954 proved no exception. Flood water came through out the area in spite of the Bagmati *Bandh* although the breaches had been repaired just prior to the advent of the rains.

The flood havoc was repeated in 1955 by a breach in the Bagmati embankment at Jagia when about 15,000 acres of ripening maize and Kheri crops were washed away from the protected belt.

The year 1956 saw a breach in the Rosera Parihara embankment over the Gandak near Mirzapur in Begusarai subdivision and water rushing eastward through the Kabar lake found its ultimate exit in the low lying lands of the Khagaria P-S within the embankment and thus the standing crops were once again washed away. During the current year (1957) a breach in the Bagmati embankment occurred only 5 miles to the north of the Khagaria town near the Etwa sluice gate flooding about 10,000 acres of land holding maize and paddy crops. Thus we find that breaches here and there have become a recurring feature.

In the southernmost portion of the subdivision which is covered by Parbatta *thana*, the Ganga flood used to be an annual affair. The water used to travel from the Ganga up to the southern portion of the railway line laying under water a vast area of land. The people of these tracts were, therefore, accustomed to cultivate the lands only for *rabi* crops and not for any *bhadai* crop. But there also a very strong embankment, namely, Gogri Narayanpur *Bandh* has been constructed recently by the Irrigation Department of the Government of Bihar as a result of which the whole of Parbatta *thana* has been completely saved from the floods of the Ganga. To drain out the water from this area some sluice gates also have been constructed on this *bandh*. Unfortunately, however, the Irrigation Department has not paid any attention to the construction of any

sluice gate in order to receive some flood water of the Ganga. The soil, therefore, is losing progressively every year its power of productivity. The fields do not get the silt of the Ganga which they used to receive every year on account of the floods. The result is quite apparent. The yield per *bigha* has gone down. Crop pests, weeds and grasses have proved a nuisance to the agriculturists. The soil has become harder. The cultivators, therefore, have now discovered that agriculture as an occupation has become very costly while the productivity has declined to a considerable extent. Here too, a breach about two miles in length occurred during the year 1956 between Salarpur and Bharatkhand washing away about 50,000 acres of standing *bhadai* crops in Parbatta and Gogri police stations south of the railway line. Along with the damage to crops, whole village of Mathurapur and part of Khajraitha went into bed of the river Ganga as a result of severe erosion. A retired line of the embankment was constructed during the current year (1957) and the erosion continued during this year as well and a large number of houses in Khajraitha and Bharatkhand have again been swallowed by the Ganga. There is no sign of the Ganga receding its course and experts in the Waterways Departments are again seriously considering a second retired line on the Gogri Narayanpur embankment.

But it must be mentioned here that some sluice gates should be constructed in order to take inside the area sufficient quantity of water during the high floods so that the lands may receive some deposits of silt in order to increase the productive capacity of the soil of the protected areas.

The lands to the east of the railway line of the Bakhtiarpur *thana* at places are swampy and liable to floods. In case, however, of immediate flood in the streams the peasants expect a rich harvest of paddy as some flood in the initial stages of the growth of the paddy plants has always proved quite useful.

The Ganga touches this subdivision at its southern extremity in *tolas* of Rahimpur and leaves this subdivision at village Lagar on the south eastern point covering about 35 miles in this subdivision. Touching Rahimpur *Tolas* it comes in the southern tracts up to Mansi and from there it flows towards the south of Nayagaon and then it goes up to Lagar on the southern point near Aguan Dumaria where lies a famous temple of Aghaibinath Mahadeo which stands in the midstream of the Ganga on a small lulloek in the district of Bhagalpur. This temple is a centre of attraction as the people every year during the festivities visit the temple to have a *darshan* of Mahadeo and to offer *pujas*, particularly during the Shivaratri festival.

The Gandak flows through the southern extremity of this subdivision. The present headquarters of this subdivision known as Khagaria is on the northern bank of the Gandak. The town of

Khagaria itself is situated in an area about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in width and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length on the northern bank of the Gandak. The river known as Burhi Gandak runs due south along the north western boundary of the Begusarai subdivision for a distance of about eight miles from near Rosera in the Darbhanga district. It then turns to the east entering the district of Monghyr at a village Akaha and follows a winding course through the Begusarai subdivision until it flows into the Ganga. It is navigable all the year round for the large boats. Throughout the year there is a *ghat* known as Khagaria Ferry *Ghat* at the river which connects the two areas on both sides of it through a regular ferry which is settled by the District Board, Monghyr.

The Kamla known as the Tiljuga and its lower reaches the Ghaghri, flow to Choutham where it receives the water of the Bagmati and the united stream then flows to Bhagalpur under the name of the Ghaghri. This river is also navigable by boats of considerable size all the year round.

The Ghaghri, which is known as one of the main branches of the Koshi flows causing devastations by overflowing its banks during the rains. The other streams also receive water from the Koshi and flow in the low lying swampy lands in the southern portion of this subdivision. On the bank of the Kamla there is a very famous place known as Katyayani Asthan. It is known as the bed of the Goddess Katyayani, who is worshipped twice a week by a large number of people who visit the place and offer their *pujas* in the shrine.

Formerly the vast portion of land between the railway line and the three streams namely the Bagmati the Kamla and the Ghaghri and the various streams as the Maria river and the Maitha river used to abound in marshes. Even the Farkia thana which used to be filled in annually by the streams but now because of the construction of the *bandhs* known as the Bagmati and the Gogri Narainpur *Bandh* a vast portion of it has been brought under cultivation and protected from annual floods. There are however still such tracts in the Bakhtiarpur and the Khagaria *thanas* which abound in marshes. They are also full of fish and form one of the cheap sources of the fish supply. Rice is sown on the edges of the shallow marshes and the deeper ones are frequented during the cold season by wild fowls geese ducks and waders in extraordinary numbers. Even today near Shikarpur we get varieties of birds. In the estate of Bakhtiarpur also there are tracts of land where birds are found in plenty.

While there is no forest of Sal or other large trees in this subdivision one cannot fail to notice the evergrowing jungles of Kashi and Pater in the northern areas in the belt of the Koshi and its tributaries. At most of the places there are luxuriant gardens of mango and lichi for which the subdivision is mostly famous. At

Khagaria there are a large number of varieties of mango and *lichu* orchards and a large number of mango and *lichu* are sent outside for sale.

In the whole subdivision there is no hill. No mineral is found in this subdivision.

There are plenty of Babool trees in this subdivision. Neem, Sirish, and Sisho trees are planted usually on the roads and on the border of the fields. In *chours* of the flooded tracts, the tree which is found luxuriantly growing is Iser, being widely used as fuel and giving abode to a variety of birds of prey. Palm trees, including both the palmyra and the date-palm are found in plantations round the villages; but they are not so common as they are in the southern part of the district, where during the hot months, thousands of gallons of toddy are consumed by thirsty public and yield revenue to the Government. Among other fruit trees may be mentioned the Jamun, Bel, Kathal, Lemon, Bair, Kela, Guava, Papita, etc

Wild animals, such as boars are occasionally found in the northern part of Bakhtiarpur. Nilgais are found in the Rahimpur *Diana* and also in the Bakhtiarpur and Choutham *thanas*. Tiger is now scarce but occasionally some of them travel from the northern part of Supaul jungle. Birds are seen in a large number in the various *chours*, particularly in areas visited by the Koshi, the Kamla and the Bagmati. Snakes are also found in the river basins in a large number. Fish are abundant because of the rivers and the *chours*. Khagaria is an important place for exporting fish to outstanding places. Rohu, Kabai and Tengra are particularly known. Crocodiles used to be found in the Koshi and Kamla but their number has greatly dwindled because of the devastation caused by hunters

The climate of this subdivision in the southern part is good but is moist and a little unhealthy in Bakhtiarpur and in the northern portion of Khagaria and Choutham *thanas*. It may be said to form a medium between the dry parching heat of the up country and the close moist atmosphere of the south valley of Bengal. The seasons are the same as in other parts of Bihar. The summer begins towards the middle of March and continues up to the end of June.

The rainy season begins towards the end of June. The heat is often intense but is very favourable during the rains because of low humidity.

The average rainfall of Gogri and Jamalpur is about 52.46 inches while that of Bakhtiarpur is 44.09 inches. The whole of Bakhtiarpur, northern portion of Khagaria and Choutham are malarious. The climate is, however, healthy and pleasant in Parbatta, Gogri and the southern part of Khagaria *thana*. The cold weather is quite pleasant though we get cases of malaria in the northern tracts.

The territory now included within the subdivision of Khagaria does not possess any historical site of importance. It is said that

the entire area was *Dahnal*, affected by floods of the Ganga, the Gandak, the Kaunla and the Bagmati and the Koshi and that because of its physical situation any site of importance must have been washed away. According to the history commonly known in this part, it is said that during the time of Emperor Akbar, Raja Todarmal had been entrusted with the duty of making a survey of the entire area but as he failed to do it he advised that this area should be excluded, in other words, he adopted the policy of *Farak Kriya* and that is why the area is known as 'Pharkiya Pargana'.

The first census of the district of Monghyr, it appears was taken in 1872, when its population was 18,14,638. During the next nine years it rose by 8.5 per cent, the number returned at the census of 1881 being 19,69,950. There was a further increase by 3.3 per cent during the next ten years as the population in 1891 was 20,35,021. At the census of 1901 it was found that the population had increased to 20,68,804 or by 1.6 per cent. A slightly higher rate of increase was shown in 1911 when the population was 21,35,000. There was a certain decrease of 4.92 per cent during the year 1921 when the population came down to 2,29,955. Now today in the year 1951 the population of the district was 28,50,656. During the 30 years, therefore, between 1921 to 1951, it seems the population rose from 20,29,965 to 28,50,656, that is by about 8,20,691. Gogri thana, which was formerly the whole of Khagaria subdivision contained in 1921, 4,12,798 roughly, whereas, according to the census of 1941, the population of this subdivision was 4,90,035. In 1951, the population was 5,84,625. The population of this subdivision, therefore, rose during the last 30 years by 1,71,827. The density works out to 777.42 per square mile. This increase appears to have been recorded in spite of the attacks of cholera, plague, fever and other diseases which took heavy toll in the previous years. This increase also may be due to the movement of a large population for grazing their flock in the Pharkiya thana of this subdivision every month during the months of January to May. Even people from the district of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur visit this tract for the grazing of the cattle and for cultivation. A class of cultivators known as Dohatbars also are seen during the cultivating season. These people own lands also and actually reside in other districts. They may be called non resident cultivators. Difference between them and the local people often arises leading to agrarian disputes. Sometimes it is found that these Dohatbars also bring with them cattle from their own districts in order to cultivate the lands without any difficulty.

The language prevalent at present in the subdivision is Hindi bordering on Maithili. Marwari is spoken by the Marwari class of merchants, while the number of Bengalees is very small. Formerly there used to live Bengali merchants in Khagaria, but the number has considerably declined. Urdu is also prevalent among the

Muslims but actually there is not much difference between Hindi and Urdu in the language spoken by the people. The Muslims, of course, use Urdu script. Kaithi is also prevalent particularly in the records of *Zamindari Sheristas* as well as in the lower courts.

Communications in this subdivision are not only unsatisfactory but are beset with various difficulties.

The North Eastern Railway runs through the subdivision in the southern and the middle sector. It passes through Shahebpur Kamal, which is in Begusarai subdivision and then enters in Khagaria. The next three stations on the main line are Mansi, Maheshkhunt and Pasraha. Narayanpur which falls just after Pasraha is in the district of Bhagalpur but the jurisdiction of Khagaria extends to a considerable distance as far as the distant signal of the Narayanpur Railway Station.

There is another branch line shooting off from Khagaria and passes through Olapur, Imli and Salouna. The last station Salouna is actually in Begusarai subdivision but it is quite near the extremity of Khagaria *thana*. A branch line also shoots off from Mansi up to Saharsa and passes through Badlaghat, Koparia and Bakhtiarpur. All these three stations are within the jurisdiction of Khagaria.

The Mansi-Saharsa branch line, however, is dislocated during the rains on account of heavy floods. Formerly the trains did not move between Katyani Asthan, a place just about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north of Badlaghat Station up to Koparia. A considerable distance about 6 miles long, had to be covered by boats. These days this gap has been narrowed down to half mile only. This disruption of communications during the rains causes immense difficulties to the people who have to pass through that route. Tourings by train become impossible. During the last few years, the Government of Bihar in the Revenue Department sanctioned a railway trolley for flood relief operations and it was placed at the disposal of the Subdivisional Officer. This trolley was the only means of communications, as one could go right up from Khagaria to Bakhtiarpur by trolley although it took about 3 to 4 hours in covering 22 miles.

Except these railway tracts, the other means of communications is road. But the roads are in very bad condition in this subdivision. The only metalled road of which this subdivision can be proud of, is 22 miles long Maheshkhunt-Aguawani Ghat Road which is still under construction and a gap of about 4 miles between Pipra and Karna is expected to be completed soon. The construction of two link roads—one linking this road to Gogri Bazar and the other linking this road to Maheshkhunt Bazar are alongside in progress. The other important road which is nearing completion is Khagaria-Parihara-Bakhri Road which is 18 miles in length, 13 miles falling in Khagaria police-station and rest in Bakhri police-station of

Begusarai subdivision. The other important landmark in road development of the subdivision will be made with the contemplated taking up of the construction of National Highways linking Muzaffarpur-Mokamah Ghat - with Assam. The road passing through Sahebpur Kamal, Monghyr Ghat, Khagaria, Mansi, Maheshkhunt and Pasraha will be passing through the heart of the subdivision. Other roads are *kutchha*. The roads lying to the north of the railway line are at very many places breached by flood water and, therefore, they have to be repaired immediately after the months of November and December every year. Sometimes serious injuries to the roads which are already *kutchha* are caused by the floods in the flood-affected areas.

Even in the area bounded by the railway line on the north and the embankment on the west, south and east in Gogri and Parbatta *thanas*, the roads are far from satisfactory. One cannot go from Pasraha to Parbatta by road during the rains although this area is free from flood. The only reason is that the low-lying lands pass through an area which get water of the surroundings. The roads are *kutchha* and it becomes absolutely impossible for any vehicle to pass through these places. The road between Khagaria and Mansi is very important. The District Board Dak Bungalow and the Koshi College as well as the new jail and the Agricultural Farm are situated just by the side of it. Travelling by a motor vehicle is by itself a difficult affair. As the wheels move, volumes of dust rise up and make it impossible for the occupants to breathe easily. It is a sight to see the people alighting from the motor vehicle who have to cover even a short journey on these roads. It is difficult to recognise the occupants who are covered by dust from top to toe. This element of dust on the roads is also responsible, as could be gathered from the Medical Officers, for the outbreak of various diseases. The thin particles find their way straight into the throat, the eyes and the nose. The construction of roads is, therefore, very necessary as it will also ensure a high standard of public health in the subdivision.

The roads in Khagaria Bazar are also far from satisfactory. None of them are *pucca* or coal-tarred. During the summer one can find smoke and dust throughout the Bazar and it becomes very difficult to breathe easily. The Notified Area Committee wanted to construct good roads but they had no money. People should, therefore, realise that unless they join their hands in the payment of the taxes it will be impossible for the Notified Area Committee to construct the roads.

The other means of communications during the rains is boat. During the summer also in deep channels like the Gandak and the Koshi and others the boats ply. If the entire area is flooded, as it was flooded during the year 1954, the means of communications during the rains at least become easier as it is possible for a man to go by boat.

There is no air field in the subdivision. The nearest air field is at Begusarai.

A public telephone call office has been opened in the Khagaria Post Office and some private telephone connections have been established at the residence of private individuals including the residence and the office of the Subdivisional Officer.

The entire subdivision depends merely on agriculture with very little of small industries. Spinning by *Charkha* was introduced at certain places, namely, Bakhtiarpur in Bakhtiarpur police station, Kanhaiyachak in Parbatia police station, Gogri in Gogri police station and Khagaria in Khagaria police station. The centres at Khagaria did not attract a wide notice but the spinning centre at other places could attract a number of spinners. Kanhaiyachak has become justly famous for *khadi*. There are a large number of ladies who have made it their sole occupation. In Bakhtiarpur there is an *Ashram*, named Gandhi *Ashram* where spinning is greatly encouraged. Even this spinning has not been widely prevalent. Weaving of cloth at Gogri-Jamalpur could provide a number of people and this has become a source of livelihood to them. They are still carrying on this trade. They purchase mill yarn and by mixing the *khadi* as well as mill yarn, they produce cloth of good varieties. This industry has become popular in that *thana*. There is not much of small industries in the rural areas of the subdivision. Musahars carry on some work with bamboo and some cultivators do some sort of work, like *sutli* making. Pot makers manufacture earthen pots and derive their livelihood from that trade. In some places boatmen ply boats but they are not fully engaged during the whole year, except the rainy season. Carpenters, cobblers and blacksmiths are also found in some villages. The only small industry, which has earned a good name among the people is *ghee* making, which is carried on in this subdivision on a large scale. This is entirely due to a large number of she buffaloes being reared in the Pharkiya Pargana. Many good cultivators send their cattle to the Pharkiya Pargana for pasturage. Khagaria is famous for *ghee* making and in the Bazar a good trade has sprung up. There are certain firms in Khagaria, Mansi, Badlaghat and Pasraha which send *ghee* to distant places.

There is absolutely no literature on palm leaves nor there is any record to that effect. A vast portion of this subdivision lying to the north of the railway line is annually inundated by floods and therefore, highly cultured and educated people do not cherish the idea of residing in the villages in those parts. There is no history of any palm leaf literature available.

No record of any painting has been found. In the rural areas however, some artists are found of crude execution. Sometimes on mud walls one would find pictures of animals or of goats, etc., but they do not show any developed stage of art.

Melas are usually held on the occasion of Hindu religious festivals, particularly in Dasahara and Kali Puja. In Khagaria, every year *melas* are held on the occasion of the last three days of Durga Puja performed in the month of Aswin. *Melas* of similar nature are held also in Alouli, Bakhtiarpur, Gogri and on a small scale at Katyan Asthan. Katyan Asthan attracts a large crowd owing to its historical sanctity.

During the Kali Puja *melas* are also held at Bhatkhand Bakhtiarpur and Khagaria. These *melas* are of the usual type. One can find small shops of sweetmeat, cloth, articles of daily use in the life of the villagers. Some entertainments, like Jhulwa Taramanchi, Kathghorwa and some magic shows are the usual features. Fruits, vegetables and articles of luxury, laces for hair dressing for women, small musical instruments for children, etc., are also brought for sale. Some political workers also establish their stalls for making publicity in favour of their parties.

For several years, Khagaria has been famous for its Gopastmi *mela*, which is held just after *chhath* in the month of Kartik. This *mela* is held near about the Goshala and attracts a very large crowd from various parts of the subdivision.

There is a very old temple, known as Aggaibinathi Mahadeo temple quite near the Aguan *ghat* in the Parbatta *thana*. On the occasion of Maghi Purnima as well as Shiva Ratri there is usually a large congregation of men and women at the *ghat* who go to the Shiva temple to offer their *pujas*. Usually on such occasions the boatmen have a brisk trade. Sometimes accidents also occur.

Folk songs of Maithili are prevalent throughout the Khagaria subdivision. If collected these songs would form a good piece of literature. Snake worship is not widely prevalent except in the cases who follow the Behula worship of snakes. The worship of Behula is not much prevalent in this part. Tree worship is prevalent among all sections of the Hindu community.

In order to inculcate among the cultivators, a number of research spirit and awakening to the modern methods of agricultural and small industries and to let them know what were the latest discoveries an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition was organised with the help of the non-official gentlemen of Khagaria sometime in the month of November, 1952. The exhibition was held on a large scale and various departments of the Government of Bihar, like Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Silk Institute of Bhagalpur, Jail Department of Bhagalpur and Monghyr, Publicity, Fishery, Cottage Industries, Agriculture Section of Sabour had taken part in it and they exhibited not only the articles but also gave shows and delivered lectures in order to educate the people in the latest methods of agriculture and small industries. In addition to these, shops from various parts of the country had arrived on the occasion. This exhibition proved extremely attractive for about ten days. Light

entertainments were also provided. The exhibition was formally opened by the Chief Minister of Bihar.

In 1953 the Second Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition was held on a bigger scale. Various departments of the Government had sent their representatives to the exhibition. The exhibition was held for about a fortnight. It was formally opened by the Finance Minister, Sri Anugrah Narayan Singh and visited by Dr. S. K. Sinha, Chief Minister and Sri Ram Charitra Singh, Irrigation Minister. The articles put up for exhibition attracted a very wide notice and proved extremely educative to the people in general. Various sections relating to Agriculture, Veterinary, Public Health, Cottage Industries, Jail and others showed how the Government were doing their best to improve the living conditions of the people in general. The Publicity Department gave film shows almost every evening.

Such exhibitions have proved very useful and it would be really encouraging to the people if they are organised in future for their enlightenment.

LACHHAUR—A village in the Jamui subdivision situated about five miles west of Simaria and four miles south of Sikandra. It contains a large Jain temple and *dharmasala* built in 1874 by Rai Dhanpat Singh Bahadur of Murshidabad for the benefit of Jain pilgrims who visit some places in the adjacent hills. The nearest are three miles south of Lachhaur and are marked "Muth Boodhroop" and "Muth Purusnath" on the Indian atlas sheet. They are two small shrines picturesquely situated in the valley between two parallel ranges of hills. In each of these shrines is a small statue of Mahavira, one of which dates back to Sambat 1505 while the other appears to be older. The temples themselves however, are of recent date*. Some Jains hold Lachhaur to be the birth place of Mahabir Swamin, the 24th *Tirthankar* of the Jains.

Lachhaur is said to have been several centuries ago the residence of Puran Mal Raja of Gidhaur who built the temples mentioned in the account of Simaria. On the outskirts of the village there is a temple dedicated to Kali which is maintained by the Gidhaur Raj. A large fair is held here during the Kali Puja festival. The population of Lachhaur according to 1951 census is 1 569.

LACHHMIPUR—Lachhmipur a large village under the police station of the same name has been made the headquarters for an *Anchal* since May, 1956. A National Extension Service Block was started in the month of October 1955. The dispensary there has since been provincialised. Nazari Forest Beat House is only half a mile off. There is a post office with registration powers and savings bank facilities. The population according to 1951 census is not given in the District Census Hand book. There is a Block Development Office and a post-office.

* Report Arch Surv Bengal 1902 3

LAKHISARAI—Now a growing township with a population of 17,329 according to the 1951 census, in the Monghyr subdivision, situated on the western bank of the Kiul river, 35 miles by rail from Monghyr. It is now connected by road with Monghyr. About its historical associations the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* mentions the following —

“The village contains the *dargah* or mausoleum of Makhdum Shah, in which is a loose slab of basalt containing an inscription of the Bengal Sultan Rukn ud-din Kaikaus. The slab is broken into two pieces, and most of the letters of the king's name are lost but the fact that the name begins with Ruknuddunya and ends with the letter s, combined with the date is sufficient to raise this identification beyond doubt. The only other known inscription of this king, which is inside the *dargah* of Maulana Ata at Gangarampur in the Dinajpur district, bears the same date, viz., the 31st Muharram 697, i.e., 19th October 1297 A.D. The inscription has no connection with the *dargah* where it now lies, as it refers to the building of a *Jama masjid*.

There were also formerly extensive Buddhist remains near Lakhisarai, but very little has escaped destruction. Several brick mounds can be traced along the Kiul river to the south of Lakhisarai, and some years ago numerous ancient statues are said to have existed there. They have almost all been carried away and the brick mounds generally have been made level with the ground. Some fine Buddhistic statues found here may be seen in the Indira Museum*.”

Lakhisarai has now got some local industries like vermilion and paint manufactories, etc. The town is electrified and there are possibilities for development of small industries in this town. In the last decade a very large number of *pucca* houses has been constructed. It has a combined post and telegraph office, schools, library and an inspection bungalow.

MAHESBARA—Is a village in P.S. Manjhaul. During the last few years hoards of coins and a very unique inscription of the time of Ruknuddin Kaikaus were discovered. This inscription is dated 1291/92 A.D. and is unique and is one of the earliest Muslim inscriptions of Bihar. The population according to 1951 census is 2,574.

MALLEPUR—Besides the railway station of some importance Mallepur has got an agriculture training school and farm and a ceramic factory. There is also a charitable dispensary after the name of Srimati Lalita Devi, wife of Shri Shyama Prasad Singh, Chairman,

Legislative Council, Bihar. The dispensary has also got the provision of maternity benefit. The ceramic factory is first of its kind in the State and it has been reinstated by a liberal grant of Bihar. The factory produces cups, saucers, tea-sets and electrical goods. There is a telegraph office, one public call office and the post-office is in direct main connection with Railway Mail Service. There are schools for boys and girls and a library. The population according to 1951 census is 4,695.

MANSI.—This is an important railway junction on the N. E. Railway situated just after Khagaria towards Katihar side. This is also headquarters of an Engineering district of railway. There is a branch line from Mansi going towards Saharsa and Supaul and connects Murliganj. This railway junction has assumed greater importance since the establishment of full-fledged district headquarters at Saharsa. It was noted previously for notorious criminals. Mansi is fast developing into a township. The railway station handles a good outturn of trade and commerce. There is a telegraph office, one public call office and the post-office is in the direct mail connection with the Railway Mail Service. The population is 350 (1951). This, however, was an underestimate as investigation shows.

MALNIPAHAR.—A hill in the Monghyr subdivision, situated in the Kharagpur Hills about seven miles north-east of Bhimbandh. There are several springs, known as Janamkund, at the bottom of the hill, which form the source of the Anjan river. One spring, which issues at all seasons of the year directly from a crevice in the rock, is apparently that of which the temperature was tested by Buchanan in 1811. Mr. V. H. Jackson, making tests at different seasons, has found that its temperature varies from 147.2° to 149°. A second series of springs, the existence of which was suspected by Buchanan, was discovered in 1912. These occur along the bed of the Anjan for about 150 yards, at a quarter of a mile from the source. Their highest temperature yet observed is 140°.*

MARUK.—A hill in the Monghyr subdivision, situated in Kharagpur Hills 13 miles south of Monghyr. The following account of the hill is quoted from an article on the Kharagpur Hills by Captain Sherwill :—

"A rough and steep scramble brought us to the summit of Maruk, a table-topped hill of 1,600 feet elevation, from whence we had a splendid view of Monghyr Station and town, 13 miles to the north of us; of the country beyond the Ganges for nearly 100 miles; of the Ganges winding through the highly cultivated plains of the districts of Patna, Monghyr and Bhagalpur; a good view

* *Eastern India* II, 199; Jackson, *Patna College Magazine*, Vol. III, 1909, pp. 1—8 and 54—8.

of the Rajmahal Hills to the east, distant 70 miles, and of the jungles at our feet. Clouds shut out the view of the Himalaya mountains, which a few days before we had seen from Monghyr in the plains, spread out in a vast panoramic view, their snowy sides tinged with the beams of the rising sun. The summit of this mountain is about a quarter of a mile in length and a few hundred yards in breadth, perfectly level and covered with a matted and tangled jungle of bamboos, mimosa, catechu, and *sakhua* trees. The spot from its elevation deserves to have a house or two erected on its summit, where invalids from Monghyr would, during the great heats of summer, find relief from the difference of temperature. Looking north and down into the jungle large bare masses of quartz rock are seen protruding through the surface of the country and overtopping the highest trees. The ferruginous clay-like laterite at the summit of the mountain is excavated into natural caves highly polished by the frequent visits of the long-tailed monkeys which abound in the woods in these hills.

"On the summit of this mountain we fell in with several of the gigantic yellow webs of the epeirae spider, which are as remarkable for their strength of web as they are for the variety of their forms and colours. The present specimens are red and black, of a formidable size and very active. Some of the webs we found stretched across our path measuring from 10 to 20 feet in diameter, in the centre of which the spider sits waiting for his prey. The webs from their great strength offered a sensible resistance when forcing our way through them; in the web of one of the spiders we found a bird entangled and the young spiders, about eight in number, feeding upon the carcass. The bird was, with the exception of his legs and beak, entirely enveloped in web, and was much decomposed; the entwined web had completely pinioned the wings of the bird so as to render his escape impossible. The bird was about the size of a field lark and was near the centre of the web; the old spider was about a foot above the bird; we secured, measured and bottled him. His dimensions were six inches across the legs; he was armed with a formidable pair of mandibles".*

The origin of the name Maruk is not known, but it is probably so called after the *maharuk* tree (*Ailanthus excelsa*). An ideal picnic spot but hardly used.

* The Kurruckpore Hills, J. A. S. B., Vol. XXI.

MAULANAGAR.—A village in the Monghyr subdivision situated about half a mile east of Surajgarha, six miles north of the Kajra Railway Station, and 18 miles west of Monghyr. The traditional account of the origin and history of the village is as follows :—Formerly the place where Maulanagar now stands was covered by jungle. In the eighteenth century A.D. a saint, named Shah Nazim-din Ali, happened to come to Surajgarha where his brother held the post of Kazi, and attracted by the solitude of the place, determined to pass the remainder of his life there. He took up his abode below a large tree on the bank of a lake, and people from all quarters began to visit him and beg that he would intercede with God for them. To one and all the saint humbly replied. 'Go Maula (God) will do you good'. The people of the neighbourhood, therefore, called him Maula Shah, and the place where he had settled Maulanagar. Here he was visited by Ali Vardi Khan, when he was marching northwards past Surajgarha on one of his frequent expeditions. Hearing of the fame of the saint, Ali Vardi Khan came to him, and like the poor villagers, begged that he would pray to God for success in his campaign. The saint complied with his request and as usual said: 'Go Maula will do you good'. The saint's prayer was answered, and Ali Vardi Khan returning from a successful campaign, made him a grant of two *mahals*, viz, *paigana* Abhaipur and *taluk* Mustafanagar. The grant he at first refused, but at length consented on condition that its proceeds should be used for charitable purposes.

This tradition is confirmed by the *Sair-ul-Mutakharrin*, which mentions Shah Maula among the saints of Bihar and says that he passed his days in poverty giving his little all to feed passing wayfarers and the poor. "But Haidar Ali Khan, who commanded Ali Vardi Khan's artillery, made application to that Prince for his bestowing on that holy man the small *paigana* of Kajra. The request was granted with the best grace in the world, so that the general one day sent a *sanad* for it. Now the estate is enjoyed by his descendants, i.e., by the relatives of his wife, who all live comfortably upon the produce of it."* Shah Maula was succeeded by a kinsman and his brother-in-law named Shah Ghulam Maula. He was, it is said, a minister of Nadir Shah, king of Persia, and accompanied him in his invasion of India (1739). Instead, however, of following Nadir Shah back to Persia, he came on a visit to Shah Maula, and having become his disciple was appointed as his successor. The present *Sajjada nashin* of Maulanagar, Saiyad Shah Sami Alimad, is his descendant.

The family traces back its descent to Saiyad Ahmad, a saint of Medina, and a champion of Islam, and gives the following account of its history. The son of Saiyad Ahmad, Shah Bagli, having been sent by Sikandra Lodi (1488—1517) to punish certain marauders who were ravaging this part of the country, settled and died in the town

* Raymond's translation, II, 175

of Bihar, and his descendant was Shah Ghulam Maula the second *Sajjada nashin* of Maulanagar. The village contains a *khankah* or Muhammadan religious institution, to which are attached a mosque and *madrasa* and the tombs of the *Sajjada nashins*. The property of the endowment consists mainly of *pargana* Abhaipur with an area of 20 square miles, the largest revenue free tenure in the district which brings in an income of about Rs 32,000 per annum. Besides this there are revenue paying estates consisting of *taluk* Mustapha nagar and Islampur with an annual income of Rs 8000. The income is expended in maintaining the *khankah* mosque and *madrasa* in feeding the poor and maintaining wayfarers and in supporting the family and relatives of the *Sajjada nashin*. Maulanagar is a *tola* of Salempur the population of which is 3924 according to 1951 census.

MONGHYR SUBDIVISION—It is the headquarter subdivision with an area of 116809 square miles. The population of the subdivision was 874,611 in 1901 as compared with 870755 in 1891. The subdivision previously comprised of the present Khagaria subdivision also. The population of subdivision is now 937,204. It contains nine towns Monghyr, Jamalpur, Sheikhpura, Barbigha, Lakhisarai, Burhee, Kharagpur, Tarapur, Surajgarh. Monghyr and Jamalpur have municipalities and there are Notified Area Committees in Lakhisarai and Burhee.

In this subdivision on the western southern side in Kharagpur police station the Santhals and Koras live near the hills and in Mufassil police station near Dharahra Hills up to Koria Hills the Santhals and Koras inhabit. In the southern side of Tarapur there are also some Santhals. The other inhabitants are as found in other parts of the country.

There are the following ten *thanas* —

- (1) Monghyr Town police station
- (2) Mufassil police-station
- (3) Jamalpur police-station
- (4) Kharagpur police-station
- (5) Tarapur police station
- (6) Surajgarh police station
- (7) Lakhisarai police-station
- (8) Burhee police-station
- (9) Sheikhpura police-station
- (10) Barbigha police station

There are three main rivers in the subdivision. The Ganga enters the subdivision in the Burhee police-station at Kishunpur and leaves the subdivision near Ghorghat in the Mufassil police-station. The Ganga divides the Mufassil police-station in two parts at two places. The Kiul enters the subdivision in Lakhisarai police station near Gorhi Pachan and again joins the Harihara at Sarjehak in the

same police station. The Harchai flows only in Burhee police-station entering the subdivision at Rakshartal near Iakhisarai and joins the Ganga a little beyond Ramchandrapur.

Hills—There is a barren hill range in Sheikhpura. There is no shrubbery on this hill range and the Sheikhpura town is situated at the toe of this hill. The Kharagpur Hill Range is about 34 miles long and 2 miles in width. The area is full of jungle and with plenty of wild animals like leopards, bears, deer and occasionally tigers. The area is full of hot springs. The most noteworthy of it and picturesque is Bhim Bundh where the Forest Department have constructed a rest house with sanitary fittings. There are also some cold springs. The next hill range is Dharahra Range in Mufassil police station. This is also about 30 miles long. The lands on the foot of the hill are fertile and are irrigated by the water which comes from the hills.

Lakes—The only and a big lake is the Kharagpur reservoir which is popularly known as Kharagpur Lake. This is in the midst of picturesque surroundings. The Waterways Department have constructed canals for irrigation. Unfortunately this beautiful lake is being silted up.

Springs—There are some famous hot springs in this subdivision among which besides Bhim Bundh are Sitakund, Rishikund, Rameshwarkund, Singhrishi and a natural waterfall Panch Kumari.

There is a legend about Sitakund. It is stated Sri Sitajee had undergone here her fire ordeal. The water of this *kund* is boiling hot. There are also several petty springs there. Sitakund area was renovated by Sri Manohar Das of Banaras more than a century back. This area was again renovated through the munificence of Sri Sri Prakasa of Banaras, now Governor of Bombay. A tablet was opened in 1956 at the *kund* recalling the work of Sri Manohar Das in a public meeting presided over by Dr S. K. Sinha, Chief Minister, Bihar and attended by Sri Sri Prakasa who was then Governor of Madras.

Singhrishi—The legend says that Singhrishi who married the sister of Sri Ram Chandra had his Ashram here. It is situated at the foot of the hill. The approach is difficult. The surrounding is full of beautiful natural scenery. It is in Surajgarha police-station near Kajra.

Rishikund—A hot spring in the Monghyr subdivision situated about six miles south of Sitakund at the head of a picturesque little valley between two ridges of the Kharagpur Hills. It has been made a place of worship and a reservoir, about 140 feet square, has been built to collect the water. The bottom is in some places sandy, in others rocky, and the water seems to issue all along the western side from numerous crevices in the rock. Bubbles rise from the whole extent of the pool near the hill, and where the gas issues from among

sand, it forms cavities like minute craters. According to observations taken by Buchanan on the morning of the 8th April, 1811 the thermometer in the air stood at 72°; in the water where it issued from the crevice of a rock, it rose to 110°, and one of the cavities to 114°.

Rameshwar Kund.—It is situated in Kharagpur police-station and on the north-west corner of the Kharagpur Lake. The legend goes that during the Muslim invasion one of the Generals camped at this site and dug the earth for water and accidentally a hot water spring came out.

Haha Punch Kumari.—It is on the western side of Rameshwar Kund. It is a waterfall coming from the hills with straight drop. The natural scenery is beautiful. This fall is named after the five girls of Hindu Raja of Kharagpur whose daughters committed suicide by jumping from the hill top to escape capture by the Muslim invaders.

Melas.—At Rishikund at Kharagpur police-station every year in the *Malmas*, a big *mela* is held which has a religious sanctity.

At Deogarh in Kharagpur police-station there is a hill. On the top of the hill is Sheo Mandir. A big *mela* is held in Fagon on Shivaratri day and it continues for three days.

At Rangnath in Kharagpur police-station also a big *mela* is held at Shivaratri day for two days.

At Rangnath in Tarapur police-station a big *mela* is held on Shivaratri day and it continues for five days. This village is situated on the road to Bhagapur.

In Monghyr town Dashiara *Mela* is held on a gigantic scale and about a lakh of people congregate here on the occasion from different parts of the district.

At Kastaharinighat in Monghyr town on Maghi Purnima day a big *mela* is held.

At Sitakund in Mufassil police-station every year a big *mela* is held on the occasion of Maghi Purnima. It is stated that it is held since the days of Ram.

NAULAKHAGARH.—A ruined fort in the Janui subdivision situated seven miles south-west of Jamui and three miles south-west of Khaira. The fort, which is picturesquely situated at the foot of the Khaira Hills, is square in shape and is enclosed by thick walls made of unhewn stones and filled with cement. At each corner there is a round tower, and there are four gates, one leading through each wall. The northern entrance appears to have been the principal one being defended by an out-work. Inside steps lead up to the top of the walls, and outside, there is bastion on each side of the

four gates. The length of each wall is about 250 feet, but they have fallen down in many places. The fort was probably a stronghold of the Gidhaur Raj when its seat was at Khaira, but popularly it is ascribed to either Akbar or Sher Shah. It is said that after it was finished, the Emperor ordered a cannon to be taken up to the top of a peak in the adjacent range of hills, and, as it was found that the shot fell within the fort, it was abandoned as untenable. The same legend is told about the fort of Shergarh in the south of the Shahabad district, and it is said that the two forts are so similar that they may safely be put down to the same period. There are no traces of buildings inside and the tradition may therefore be true that the place was given up immediately after it had been built, as it was not considered sufficiently strong. It may have however been built merely as a hunting lodge, for it lies just at the foot of several high hills, still covered with thick jungle. The name Naulakhagarh is said to have been given to the fort because nine lakhs of rupees were expended on its construction. Naulakha is however a common name for anything big e.g. a mango grove supposed to contain nine lakhs of bricks, etc. (Reports, Arch Surv Ind Vol III 1878 Report, Arch Surv Bengal Circle, for 1902-03.)

NARHAN ESTATE—An estate situated in the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr and Patna with an area of 57,282 acres. In Monghyr district 84 villages belong wholly or in part to the estate, forming a compact block in the *parganas* of Bhusarhi, Naipur and Imadpur. Of these sixty villages covering an area of 30,359 acres, and containing a population of about 28,500 persons, belong entirely to the estate. The estate is so called because the family residence is at Narhan, a village lying just within the district of Darbhanga, close to the Monghyr boundary. The proprietress Rani Rajnit Kuer, was invested with the title of Rani in 1920, in recognition of her activities in carrying out works of public utility of which the most notable in this district is the Forest Bridge over the Burh Gandak at Phaphaut. The estate has now vested in the Government.

NAGI DAM—The dam's site is situated about five miles in north-east in *tola* Chhuchhuneria of village Barajore. It is the head quarters of the Nagi Dam scheme. The scheme envisages an expenditure of rupees thirty lakhs. It is a storage dam having provision of canal. The work had started in 1952.

NONGARH—A village in the Jamui subdivision, situated on the west bank of the Kiul river about 11 miles south-east of Lakhisarai. The village derives its name from a great mound called Nongarh which is 40 feet in height and 200 feet in diameter at the base. It is a solid mass of well burnt bricks, each 12 inches by 9 inches by 2 inches and was evidently an ancient Buddhist stupa. It was excavated by General Cunningham, who sank a shaft from the top downwards and discovered seven feet from the top a small

chamber containing three small clay stupas, and below that another chamber with eight more stupas of clay, besides a broken statue bearing the remains of an inscription in early characters of the first century before or after Christ. The statue is made of the red-spotted sandstone of the Sikri quarries near Mathura and the treatment of the drapery, fitting close to the figure, is the same as that of the Mathura statues, of the same age. Excavation was continued by Mr. Beglar, who unearthed, 19 feet lower down, some fragments of an arch of brick, built edge to edge, and an even brick floor which appears to have been the floor of the sanctum of a small temple.

The results of his exploration are described by Mr. Beglar as follows — It would appear that there once existed here a small temple facing north, that in course of a time this temple fell to ruin and became a low mound above 12 or 13 feet high, and that subsequently on this mound a stupa was built. There is nothing to show the age of the stupa beyond a small model stupa found by General Cunningham in the relic chamber. Judging from this, it is not probable that the stupa is so old as the first century before or after Christ, but the existence of the mutilated red stone statue, with its inscribed characters, shows that there was some sort of religious building here as early as the beginning of the Christian era. As it is clear that the stupa was built on the ruins of the temple below, and as the stupa is clearly not of the period about the beginning of the Christian era, the temple on whose ruins it stands must be considered of the same age as the inscribed red-stone statue viz., of the first century before or after Christ. Having no doubt myself that the temple was certainly as old as the statue, which according to General Cunningham, dates to the first century before or after Christ, it follows—(1) That the true arch was known and used in India at that time. (2) That although the principle of the true arch was known, it was, so far as yet positively known, built invariably of bricks edge to edge, and not face to face as our modern arches. (3) That the use of mortar, lime and *sarkhi* was known. (4) That fine lime plastering was known and used at that early period. From the mutilated statue it appears to me idle to speculate as to the deity to whom the temple was dedicated whether Buddhist or Brahmanical; the probabilities are in favour of its being Buddhist.

About 200 feet to the east of the stupa there are the remains of a monastery, of which about half has been carried away by the river. General Cunningham was at one time inclined to identify Nongarh also called Longarh, with the *Lo-mu-lo* or *Lonyra* of Hsuen Tsing as the names are very nearly the same, while the only two buildings which the pilgrim mentions, a monastery and a great stupa, correspond with the only two ruins now existing at Nongarh. In these respects Nongarh corresponds with the *Lo-mu-lo* of Hsuen Tsing but he also mentions a large lake, and as this no longer exists, it corresponds

with the pilgrim's description is imperfect. Elsewhere General Cunningham identifies Lo-in ni lo with Kūl (Reports, Arch Surv Ind, Vol III, pp 160-2, and Vol VIII, pp 118-20).

NURPUR—A village in Teghra P-S in the Begusarai subdivision, with an area of 179 acres and a population of 1,177 souls, according to 1951 census. There is an old mosque with an inscription referring to Miran, son of Mirzaffar.

PARBATTIA—This village figures prominently in the last freedom movement of 1942. At present it is the headquarters of a full fledged N E S Block and a police station. Recently a market has started developing in this village. A college has also been started which has already been affiliated up to the I A standard. The place is also noted for a number of spinning organisations. The population is 1,295 (1951).

PHARKIYA PARGANA—This *pargana* was once an important feudal centre during the Mughal regime. Its part has been recorded in the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, published in 1926 in the following manner—'A *pargana* in the north-east of the Monghyr subdivision, with an area of 506 square miles, comprised mainly within the Gogri *thana*. This tract formerly belonged to an ancient family of zamindars, of whose history little is known except what was collected in 1787 by Mr Adair, the Collector of Bhagalpur. It is said to have been inhabited by a lawless tribe of Hindus of the Dosadh caste, who made constant depredations in the neighbouring country. At last towards the close of the 15th century the Emperor of Delhi sent a Rajput, named Biswanath Rai, to restore order, a task which he successfully accomplished. He then obtained the grant of a zamindari in this part of the country, and the estate developed on his posterity without interruption for ten generations. The annals of the family, however, after the first quarter of the 18th century, are a record of little but bloodshed and violence, affording striking evidence of the state of Government and society that preceded the English conquest of Bengal. In 1730 Kunjal Singh, who then held the estate, was treacherously murdered by a Chakwar named Ruko Singh who plundered the country. Next year Narayan Dat the brother of Kunjal Singh, obtained possession, but was soon after confined for arrears of revenue in the defaulters prison at Patna and in his absence Paspat Rai and Rupnarayan, Rajas of Tirhut appear successively to have had possession of the *pargana*, but whether by authority or force is uncertain. Narayan Dat at length obtained his release and re-established himself in the zamindari, which he held until A D 1742 when he was killed at Patna by one Izzat Khan who seized his property.

A short time afterwards, Bhawani Singh of Kharagpur defeated Izzat Khan in battle, and took possession of the property. He set up a right of inheritance through descent from the original grantee, and

leaving his brother Kalian Singh in charge, resided at Patna Hardat Singh, the legitimate descendant of Narayan Dat, denied this pretension, and in 1757 submitted his claims to Waris Ali Khan, *amil* of Bhagalpur. Before the case could be brought to issue, news arrived of the recall of Waris Ali, and the same night Hardat Singh, fearing that the appointment of a new *amil* might prove an obstacle to his suit, assembled his adherents, and having procured admission into the defaulters' prison, where Kalian Singh and his brothers were confined put them all to death, and took possession of the property in dispute. Such a proceeding was liable to punishment, even under the Mughal Government, Hardat Singh had no hesitation in avowing his crime and without being called to any account for it, was suffered to remain in possession of the zamindari until A D 1766 when Waris Ali Khan, being again *amil* of Bhagalpur, drove him out to make room for Mukam Singh, a relative of the murdered Kalian. Next year, however it was thought proper to dispossess the latter and restore Hardat Singh, who continued in possession down to A D 1790.

In the early years of 19th century one Buniad Singh was the principal zamindar of this *pargana*, having, it is said, 176 villages covering an area of 74,038 *bighas* and assessed to a revenue of Rs 17,432. The whole of this estate was sold up for arrears of revenue in 1798, but the price obtained did not cover the amount of the arrears. Buniad Singh was accordingly put in jail and so far as can be ascertained, he remained there for several years. In the meanwhile, Bhuttan Singh, who had purchased a portion of the estate assessed at Rs 12,126 was also sold up in 1802, and another speculative purchaser took his place. The only property left to Buniad Singh consisted of waste lands not assessed to revenue but included in this settlement, their lands had been put up to sale, but no one would bid for them. The reason for this failure to pay land revenue appears to be that it was a matter of no little difficulty for the zamindar to collect his dues in such an area of swamp and jungle while his position was not improved (by the fact that the estate included large areas on which the only rent realizable was a tax on animals, that were brought then, as now, to graze in the jungle and prairie grasses).

At the time of the publication of the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* the greater portion of the estate was then the property of Babu Kedarnath Goenka and Babu Deonandan Prasad. The *pargana* has now been distributed between police stations Khagaria Gogri, Chouthan and Simri Bakhtiyarpur. It has now vested in the State. It does not consist of only jungle and swamp. There is now very little swamp and jungle left, the major portion having been converted into cultivable land.

PURAGHAT—It is a village in P S Manjhaul where ancient coins were procured. About the antiquity of these coins one may

consult Prof R K Chaudhury's article in Bulletin no 4, March 1959, J A H S and Museum, G D College, Begusarai

RAJAONA—About the historical association of this village, the last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* mentions the following —

"A village in the Monghyr subdivision situated two miles north-west of Lakhisarai. This village has been identified by General Cunningham with Lo-in-ni-lo, a place visited by the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsiang in the 7th century A D, which possessed a monastery and stupa erected by Asoka, with a lake 30 li, i.e., five miles in circuit, lying 2 or 3 li, i.e., rather less than half a mile, to the north of the stupa. The only place which suits this special description of Lo-in-ni-lo is Rajaona, which is situated near the junction of the Kiul river with the old Ganges or Halahar. It still possesses a large sheet of water to the north, which is supplied by the overflow of the Halahar, direct from the Ganges. The position must have been a favourite one, as the mounds of ruins showing the foundations of both Buddhist stupas and Brahmanical temples extend for four miles along the western or left bank of the Kiul river with a varying breadth of from 1 mile to 1½ mile. At the northern end is the large village of Rajaona, and at the south the fortified hill city of Jaynagar, with a lake to the north west, about three miles in circuit. Between Rajaona and the railway station is the small village of Khagol, which possesses the *dargah* of a great saint named Pir Mukhdum Maulana Nur, who is said to have defeated Indardaun or Indradyumna, the last Rājā of Jaynagar."

Rajaona is a village surrounded by numerous mounds and was one of the mahals of Sarkar Monghyr in the time of Akbar. The ruins have furnished several miles of brick ballast to the railway. There used to be numerous Buddhist statues and sculptures here, but nearly all have been carried off to different temples and the Indian Museum. Some statues still exist at an ancient mound called Raghugarh, viz., Ganesa, Haritara Durga, Vishnu, the seven mothers, the nine planets etc. as well as a few imperfect Buddhist figures, but most of them have been taken away. (Reports, Arch Surv Ind, Vol III, pp 151-6 and Vol XV pp 13-15). The population is 421.

RAMPUR—It is a village under P O Lakhisarai. In this village three broken and inscribed images of Buddha have been found. Tentatively these images could be assigned to the Pala period. They are all in black stone.*

* Bulletin no 4 March 1959 JAH S and Museum G D College Begusarai

SANGHOUL—A village under P O Ullao has yielded a number of historical and archaeological finds including the figure of *Apsara*, a broken female figure in black stone and a broken inscribed image of Buddha *

SIKANDRA—A village in the Jamui subdivision situated 13 miles west of Jamui, 18 miles south east of Sheikhpura and 15 miles south west of Lakhisarai. It contains a police station and district Board bungalow, and also the *dargah* of a saint called Shah Muzaffar. This is an ordinary brick tomb in a small open enclosure inside the courtyard of a mosque. The legend is that Shah Muzaffar was king of Balkh in Turkistan but gave up his kingdom and became a *fakir*. He came to India and made his way to Bihar, where he became the disciple of a famous saint called Shah Mahdum Sharifud-din. The latter ordered him to go to Sikandra where there was a terrible demon, who every day devoured one of the villagers. This demon he subdued and then performed a *chula* i.e. remained fasting in fervent devotion for 40 days. Sikandra was formerly the head quarters of the Jamui subdivision and a number of roads converge upon it.

Sikandra is now an *Anchal* headquarters and National Extension Service Block has been started. There is a veterinary dispensary and a Forest Beat office. It is connected with Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura and Nawada by pitched road. There is a post office in the direct mail connection with the Railway Mail Service. In 1951 census the population was recorded at 3,321 souls. There is a Circle office.

SONO—A village with a market, a post office and a middle school. Sono has become the headquarters of the *Anchal cum* National Extension Service Block. There is a high school. From this place two roads start, one to Simultala and another to Jamui via Mangohandar. The population is 1,843 as shown in the District Census Handbook (1951). There is the office of a B D O and a post office.

SIMARIA—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* mentions the following regarding the place and the legend associated with it — 'A village in the Jamui subdivision situated 7 miles west of Jamui and about half way between that place and Sikandra. Close to the Jamui-Sikandra Road is a group of six temples in a rectangular compound surrounded on three sides by water of a large tank. The principal temple enshrines a *linga* while inside the minor ones there are among other images several Buddhistic statues. One a large statue of Buddha has an inscription on its pedestal containing the name of the donor, one Thakkura Buddhaseena and the Buddhistic creed very ungrammatically written. The temples are maintained

* Vid- Bull tin no 4 JAHS and Museum G D College Begusarai March 1959 edited by Prof R K Chaudhury

by the Maharaja Bahadur of Gidhaur, and are said to have been built some centuries ago by his ancestors. There is an interesting legend connected with the largest and oldest which was built by Raja Puran Mal. Puran Mal, who lived at Lachhaur, five miles to the west was a faithful servant of god Mahadeo and everyday used to ride to Baidyanath to worship in his temple. The god, pleased with his devotion and wishing to save him the trouble of going every day to Baidyanath, appeared to him in a vision and told him that he would find an emblem of his divinity, in other words, a *linga*, under a potter's wheel in the village. Over this he was to build a temple at which worship would be as effective as at Baidyanath. The Raja unearthed the *linga*, and the temple which he built over it was called Dhaneshwarnath or Mahadeo Simaria. This legend explains the fact that the officiating priests at the temple are not Brahmans but members of the low caste of Kumhars or potters. According to their own account, the *linga* Dhaneshwar was unearthed by their ancestor. The Buddhist images are now worshipped as Lakshmi Astabhuja, Parvati, Bhairo and Sandhya. Mahadeo Simaria is considered to be a place of considerable sanctity, and pilgrims on their way to Baidyanath make a halt there to bathe the *linga* with water from the Ganges, which they bring for that purpose."

SHEIKHPURA—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* mentions the following about the place and the legend associated with it — A village in the extreme south west of the Monghyr subdivision with a station situated on the South Bihar Railway. Population (1921) is 11,937. It is an important centre for the grain trade and for the manufacture of *hookah* tubes, and contains a district board bungalow, police station and dispensary. Sheikhpura has been identified by General Cunningham with a village visited by the Chinese pilgrim Hsien Tsiang in the seventh century A. D. Hsien Tsiang, after leaving the Gaya district, arrived at a large and populous village to the south of the Ganges, which possessed many Brahmanical temples ornamented with fine sculptures. There was also a great stupa built on the spot where Buddha had preached for one night. Both distance and direction point to the vicinity of Sheikhpura, a position which is confirmed by the subsequent easterly route of the pilgrim through forests and gorges of mountains. There are very few ancient remains except a fine tank, two miles west of the village, called Mathokar Tal, on the bank of which there is a *dargah*, said to be the tomb of one Mathokar Khan. But as the site is said to have been originally occupied by a temple of Kali, and as the tank is still called Kali Mathokar, the name is probably only a contraction of Mathpokhar, or the temple tank, the full name having been Kali math pokhar, i.e., the tank of the temple of Kali.*

About three miles to the east, near a place called Pachina there is a pass over the hills called Goalmlkhand to which an interesting

legend attaches The Emperor Sher Shah, it is said, was always fond of Monghyr because it was there that he obtained an early success which formed a stepping stone in his career Once when marching to quell a rebellion in Bengal, he stopped a week in the fort during the month of Baisakh, the best time of the year for hunting The Governor had made preparations for a hunt in the jungles near the Sheikhpura Hills, and much to the surprise of his courtiers, the Emperor, on coming to the line of elephants drawn up, ordered the *mahaut* to give him the reins The astonished *mahaut* replied that an elephant was guided not by reins but by an *ankus*, where upon Sher Shah, jumping down, mounted his horse and rode off The courtiers were astonished and while some admired his courage in wishing to control an elephant by reins, others exclaimed at his whimsical temper, while others murmured that the *jagir* of Sasaram could still be smelt through the perfume of the throne of Delhi In the meantime, the Emperor was wandering by himself in disguise, making the acquaintance of his subjects like Harun ul rashid Among others he met an old *goalin* or milkwoman of Sheikhpura, who watered his horse and gave him milk to drink and some pulse to eat While he was conversing with her, one of his followers, Mian Sulaiman, who had been searching for him, came up and addressed him as Emperor He asked her what he could do for her to repay her kindness, and she then replied that the best thing he could do would be to make a straight road over the hills to save her and the villagers from the tedious track round them The Emperor promised to make a road, and was as good as his word He would not, however, let it be named after himself but called it Goalinkhand, or the milkwoman's road

According to 1951 census it has a population of 15,785 persons It is now a fast developing township There is a combined post and telegraph office It has several old Muslim families of culture

SIMULTALA—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 mentions the growth of this locality in the following manner — 'A village and railway station on the Chord line of the East Indian Railway, 217 miles from Calcutta It is just over 1,000 feet above sea level, and its healthy climate and picturesque surroundings have made it a popular health resort with Bengalis It is situated on undulating ground, partly gravel and partly sand, and owing to the slope is rapidly drained To the north and west are pretty little hills of diverse shapes, and the climate is always cooler than in the low alluvial lands of the district The following history of the place is quoted from a report sent by the District Officer Until 1894 Simultala was an obscure village and, besides the railway quarters, contained only one bungalow, the property of Babu Sarat Chandra Mitra, Professor in the Presidency College This bungalow appears to have been built by Mr Smith, who had a mica business in the neighbourhood, and after the death of Mr and Mrs Smith came

into the possession of the zamindar Thakur Ranjit Narayan Singh of Telua, from whom Babu Sarat Chandra Mitra acquired it over 20 years ago. In 1894 Mr Surendra Nath Banerji, Editor of the *Bengalee*, came with his family to Simultala and occupied this bungalow. He saw the advantages of the place as a sanatorium and health resort, and next year two Bengali gentlemen persuaded the Thakur of Telua to grant a *mokarari* lease of the elevated site near the railway station known as the Ridge, others soon followed suit and acquired sites. The first masonry house was built in 1897 and a number of others were erected in the next ten years. At present there are about 50 substantial houses in the station, all belonging to Bengali gentlemen and a few are being added every year. A charitable dispensary was opened twenty years ago chiefly through the exertions of Mr S P Sinha (now Lord Sinha) and is maintained by public subscriptions. There is a post office and a mosque for Muhammedans also built by public subscription. Simultala has a wide reputation among the Bengali community as a sanatorium for the cure of malarious fevers and diseases of the lungs and many people come here for a change, the season beginning about the month of October and continuing till the close of the cold weather. There is no *bazar* at the place, the residents and visitors have to get their supplies from the *hats* held twice a week at Telua three miles off or from the *Bazar* at Jhajha or from Calcutta.

The description of Simultala needs a change. A large number of well built houses had been constructed and till the days of the price control measures after the Second Great World War Simultala used to attract a large number of visitors twice in the year. Calcutta doctors used to prescribe a change at Simultala for recouping health. The price control measures scared away the visitors and during this period there was a certain amount of criminal activities. The high prices of the essential commodities made the employment of the caretakers and *malis* of the houses rather expensive. A visit to Simultala now has a depressing effect because it shows lakhs and lakhs of rupees lying waste in beautiful untenanted houses falling into disrepair. Another cause of the decline of Simultala was the opening up of good roads connecting Chornagpur and North India and motorists no longer visit this place being quite close to Calcutta.

The result that there is practically no *ba ar* even now and people have still to depend on the *hats* for their supplies. An improvement of Simultala could only be done if some offices are opened there. A move on this direction has started.

It is also now the headquarters of the revenue *halka* and a *Gram Panchayat*. The Forest Beat Officer has been upgraded for afforestation division of the Forest Department. Recently a charitable dispensary has been started with a qualified doctor by the Monghyr District Board since January 1957. There is also a grain *gola* for

the welfare of the aboriginal Harijans There is also a Government poultry farm, supervised by a Government Poultry Supervisor It is connected with Chakai with a sixteen miles long Muram and Macedam road on which Rajya Transport ply daily

About four miles away in the south west corner of Simultala there is one Haridiya fall which serves as a sight scene place for the changer coming to Simultala There is a post office in direct mail connection with the Railway Mail Service The population of Simultala according to 1951 census is 451 which is an under estimate

SITAKUND—A village in the Monghyr subdivision situated four miles east of the town of Monghyr It contains a hot spring known as the Sitakund spring, which is so called after the well known episode of the *Ramayana* Rama, after rescuing his wife Sita from the demon king Ravana, suspected that she could not have maintained her honour intact, and Sita, to prove her chastity, agreed to enter a blazing fire She came out of the fiery ordeal unscathed, and imparted to the pool in which she bathed the heat she had absorbed from the fire The hot spring is now enclosed in a masonry reservoir and is visited by large numbers of pilgrims especially at the full moon of Magh The water is beautifully clear and limpid, and sends up numerous bubbles from its rocky bed The temperature of this spring varies in a remarkable manner, just as described in 1765 by Tieffenthaler — 'The water retains its great heat for about eight months from the vernal equinox to about the summer solstice, which is the season of greatest heat in these countries, it is less burning and becomes lukewarm'

The earliest exact measurements were made in 1811 by Buchanan who wrote "I visited this spring first on the 7th April, a little after sunrise The thermometer in the open air stood at 68° F, and in the hottest part of the reservoir where many air bubbles rose it stood at 130° The priests said that about eight days before it had become cooler, and that the heat would gradually diminish till the commencement of the rainy season I visited the spring on the 20th April at sunset, the air having been hot all day and parching the thermometer in the air stood at 84°, in the well it rose to 122° On the 28th April I visited it again a little after sunset, the wind blowing strong from the east, but not parching The temperature in the air was at 90°, in the well it only rose to 92° The water still continued clear, but soon after, owing to the reduction of the heat, and the natives being in consequence able to bathe in the well, the water became so dirty as to be no longer drinkable by an European Indisposition for some time prevented me from being able to visit the place but in the beginning of July on the commencement of the rainy season, the water, in consequence that month a native sent with the thermometer found at sunset that of the return of the heat, became again limpid, and on the 26th of

it stood in the air at 90° , and in the water at 132° . In the evening of the 21st September, the thermometer stood in the air at 88° in the cistern at 138° , and the number of air bubbles had very evidently increased." When Sir Joseph Hooker visited the place on April 1st, 1848, he found the temperature to be only 104° , and Colonel Waddell recorded a drop from 137° to 136° between the 11th of January and the 5th of March, 1890. He adds 'I find on enquiry from the priests at Sitakund that the water still becomes slightly cooler in early summer, but since forty years ago it has never become so cool as to permit of bathing, and they endeavour to make a miracle of this by saying that the annual cooling of the pool ceased immediately after the visit of a certain Mahratta Raja' *

Various explanations of this phenomenon have been suggested, such as "deep seated thermodynamic action and variations of underground volcanic activity, or of the conductivity of the earth's crust when dry or when soaked with rain but Mr V H Jackson considers that the real reason is simply the variation of flow of the spring itself during the rainy season and for some months afterwards the spring flows sufficiently strong to keep the whole volume of water in the reservoir nearly at its own maximum temperature which is about 139° . Later on as the influence of the monsoon wanes, the spring noticeably slackens off, and the water in the tank naturally cools more and more, until the flow is renewed by the next rainy season. During the hot weather following an unfavourable monsoon, the spring may practically dry up altogether. This probably happened in 1811, judging from Buchanan's observations, and it certainly occurred after the failure of the rains in 1908, during the hot weather of 1909, when the reservoir was cleaned out and repaired.

Close to the Sitakund spring there is a Hindu temple and to the north is a reservoir of cold water known as the Ramkund, while to the west there are three more pools called, after the three brothers of Rama, Lakshmankund, Bharatkund and Satrughnakund. About 300 yards north west from Sitakund there is a spring on the bank of a pond in the Muhammadan village of Barde, but it is not worshipped, and it is only visible as a surface spring in autumn and winter. Observations taken in January showed that it had exactly the same temperature as Sitakund viz, 137° F but in March no spring was visible and on digging down two feet the temperature of the water only registered 103° F. There is another hot spring about one third of a mile south east from Sitakund, which emerges at the base of the small quartzite hill of Bhainsa, at its southern end. When visited by Colonel Waddell in March, 1890 it was a sluggish spring, with a temperature of 102° , but in October of 1917, Mr V H Jackson found three small pools the hottest being at 118.7° . The spring is usually submerged under two or three feet

* Some hot springs in South Bihar, J A S B 1890

of water during the rainy season. The water is only drunk by cattle and no sulphuretted smell is perceptible. Yet another hot spring was found close to Sitakund about thirty years ago and is named Phillipskund after the then Collector, Mr. Phillips. From this spring Messrs. Kellner and Company obtain their supply for the manufacture of aerated water. An observation taken in February, 1908 showed the temperature of the water to be 131° or only 1° less than that of Sitakund. In September of 1909 and October of 1912 and 1917 its average temperature was 134.7° , or 3.5° lower than that of Sitakund.

Early European travellers have left interesting accounts of the Sitakund spring. Mr. Twining, who visited the place in 1794, remarked that the water was often sent down to Calcutta for the use of persons about to undertake a long sea voyage, and that if put in bottles it would preserve its tasteless purity for more than twelve months. Bishop Heber also stated that some persons in Calcutta drank nothing else, while Sir Joseph Hooker observed that "the water, which is clear and tasteless, is so pure as to be exported copiously, and the Monghyr manufactory of soda-water presents the anomaly of owing its purity to Sita's ablutions". An interesting account is also given in the *Wanderings of a Pilgrim* by Fanny Parkes, who came here in 1836. She describes how, a few years before her visit, an artillery man attempted for a wager to swim across the basin, and although he succeeded in getting over, it was necessary to convey him to a hospital, where he died within a few hours from the effect of the hot water.*

SRINGIRIKH.—One of the peaks of the Kharagpur group of hills, situated 20 miles to the south-west of Monghyr. The hill is named after the famous Rishya Sringa of the *Ramayana*, who performed a *yajna* sacrifice at the instance of King Dasharatha in order that the latter might have offspring. It is a much frequented place of pilgrimage especially on the Sivaratri day in February. There is a spring here in a gorge among the hills, which issues in six or seven places from below a high cliff of quartzite and forms a considerable stream lower down. A small reservoir has been constructed at the foot of the cliff, and is used for bathing. It is believed to have miraculous properties, the story being that whoever goes into it, whether child or adult, short or tall, finds the water only waist-deep. The water is hardly lukewarm. Colonel Waddell recorded 90.5° F. in January of 1890, whereas Mr. V. H. Jackson found the temperature to be 86.7° F in March and 87.1° F in October of 1909. There is also a temple dedicated to Mahadeo, a small square structure, about 15 feet high, with a pyramid over it. It is said to have been built about thirty years ago by a Marwari, to whom

* Please also see Sitakund under Springs on page 506. A recent renovation by Sri Sri Prakasa, now Governor of Bombay and the State Government of Bihar has improved the place.

children were born after he had worshipped here. The emblem of the deity enshrined in the temple is an ordinary *linga* brought from Banaras by this Marwari. Another *linga* lying outside is said to have been the image originally worshipped. Several years ago the story goes, a mad man removed it from the temple and threw it into a stream, and it was discovered only after a long search. Near it is a female figure, about four feet high, carved in relief on black stone, holding in her hands two long flowers which give support to two small elephants. The smaller female figures, carved on the same block, stand at the two lower corners on either side of the bigger image. These images are probably Buddhistic but are now worshipped by Hindus, the bigger image as Parvati, the smaller ones as Gaura and Sandhya. General Cunningham states that he found several figures here, both Buddhistic and Brahmanical and two inscriptions, one of which was Buddhistic*. The temple is about six miles from Kajra Railway Station, but is more easily accessible from Mananpur Railway Station, eight miles to the south west. An ideal place for hiking or picnic but seldom used.

SURAJGARHA—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr*, 1926 records the following—A village in the Monghyr subdivision, situated on the southern bank of the Ganges 25 miles from Monghyr. The place is believed to be one of the oldest in the district, and tradition stated that it is so called because it contained the fort of Raja Suraj Mal, who ruled until the Muhammadan conquest. A decisive battle was fought closeby in 1557 between Bahadur Shah King of Bengal, and Muhammad Shah Adli. Professor Blochmann has located the battle field at the village of Fatehpur four miles to the west. Later, we find that Ali Vardi Khan halted here and it is said that the place was the headquarters of a Muhammadan *kazi*. There are no remains, however, of any interest as the Ganges has swept away a large portion of the old village. There was formerly an old Fort but only a small portion of its enclosure is now left. It is reported that about 60 years ago the encroachment of the river laid bare an underground room with a shelf, on which were some old turbans that crumbled into dust when touched. Surajgarha also used to be an important emporium, but most of its trade has been diverted by the railway. At the foot of a tree close to the ferry ghat are several images, both Brahmanical and Buddhistic. One is a big Shiva *linga* evidently of recent date another is a figure of Buddha sitting. Two are images carved in relief on black stone of some god resembling in some respects Buddha but holding in his four hands the *sanka* (conch), *chakra* (disk), *gada* (club) and *padma* (lotus), which are usually found with the Hindu god Narayan. One is about three feet high, the other is about half that height. The bigger of the two is surmounted by what is known as a *chalchitra* in which are carved figures of some animals and birds.

and near the bottom of the smaller one are two female figures, one holding a chowrie, the other a guitar. Population is 3,323 according to 1951 census. It has a thana, school and the headquarters of a block.

TELWA—Previously the seat of local and lord (Thakur) Telwa has become the Halka headquarters of Revenue Administration. It is four miles away from Simultala in the south east corner connected with Simultala and Chakai by *katcha* roads. A *hat* is held twice a week here. It is a centre of grain market of this locality. There is also a Girls' L. P. School.

UREN—The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) mentions. A village in the Monghyr subdivision situated close to the railway three miles west of Kajra station. It contains several Buddhistic remains, which were first discovered by Colonel Waddell who identified the site with the place where Buddha converted a Yaksha king called Vakula. It is described as follows by Hsien Tsiang — 'On the western frontier of the country of I lan na po-fa to the south of the river Ganges, we come to a small solitary mountain with a double peak rising high'. Formerly Buddha in this place rested during the three months of rain, and subdued the Yaksha Vakula (Yo-c'ha Po-khu—10). Below a corner of the south east of the mountain is a great stone. On this are marks caused by Buddha sitting thereon. The marks are about an inch deep, five feet two inches long, and two feet one inch wide. Above them is built a stupa. Again to the south is the impression on a stone where Buddha set down his *kuñchika* (*kundika* or water vessel). In depth the lines are about an inch, and are like a flower with eight buds (or petals). Not far to the south east of the spot are the foot traces of the Yaksha Vakula. They are about one foot five or six inches long, seven or eight inches wide, and in depth less than two inches. Behind these traces of the Yaksha is a stone figure of Buddha in sitting posture, about six or seven feet high. Next, to the west, not far off, is a place where Buddha walked for exercise. Above this mountain top is the old residence of the Yaksha. Next to the north is a foot trace of Buddha a foot and eight inches long and perhaps six inches wide and half an inch deep. Above it a stupa is erected. Formerly when Buddha subdued the Yaksha he commanded him not to kill men nor eat their flesh. Having respectfully received the law of Buddha, he was born in heaven. To the west of this are six or seven hot springs. The water is exceedingly hot'.

Colonel Waddell claims that Uren satisfies the above description. After showing that its position corresponds with that given by the Chinese pilgrim, he writes "Of the hill itself no more

* Beal notes that a passage might be translated "There is a small solitary hill with successive crag, leaped up"

concise description could be given than that contained in Beal's translation, viz., a small solitary hill with successive crags heaped up " The hill is also " a small solitary mountain with a double peak rising high " " In appearance, the hill literally satisfies both the original and alternative descriptions " As regards the details mentioned by Hsuen Tsiang, Colonel Waddell points out that there is a tradition that the hill was formerly the abode of Lorik, famous in the folklore of Bihar, and identifies the residence of the Yaksha Vakula with what the villagers call his house (*Lorik ka ghar*) This is a somewhat flat area on the top of the hill, below the south east side of the summit, and is surrounded on three sides by vaguely columnar rock, slightly suggestive of rude walls In regard to the name of the Yaksha, viz., Vakula, which in modern Hindi becomes Bakula, it is remarkable to find the local survival of this name and the awe in which it is still held Immediately behind Uren is the mouth of a pass which leads into the wild Singhol Hills, and the pass and the hills beyond were the retreat of bandit till long after the Muhammadan invasion The older banditti are popularly alleged by the villagers to have been cannibals, and their raids are still spoken of by the lowlanders here with dread These highland aborigines were formerly called *rakshas* or demons by the plains people, and the oldest settlement of these *raksha* or *yaksha* tribes is about five miles beyond the mouth of the pass, and is called Bakura—which is identical with the name of the '*Yaksha*' given by Hsuen Tsiang—l and r being interchangeable It is a common practice to name villages after their founders thus Bakura village—'the village of Bakura' And so great was the dread inspired by this Bakura, that he is even now worshipped by the semi-aborigines of the plains (the Dosadhs and Goalas) at a shrine in the village of Jalalabad, about eight miles east from Uren under the name of Ban Bakura Nath or the Savage Lord Bakura His image is in basalt and represents a squat muscular man in a semi-sitting posture He has a large sensual head, thick lips and curly hair, which later is fastened in a coil with a scimitar-shaped dagger, as with the aborigines in the Bharhut sculptures

To the north of this spot is a footprint in the rock and five yards above it a mound of bricks which may mark the remains of a small *stupa* as described by Hsuen Tsiang The impression made on the rock by Buddha's *lota* and the footprints of the Yaksha, which were known to the villagers as *Lorik's lota* mark and footprints, have been destroyed by blasting and the colossal statue of Buddha has also disappeared, but in the spot mentioned by Hsuen Tsiang, Buddha's promenade can still be seen, viz., a narrow level tract between two long massive shoulders of rock " Before the great accumulation of debris had taken place, the rocks on either side must have stood up like walls and bounded a rocky lane—a most suitable promenade for the great ascetic, affording an outlook only to the distant hills and overhead the sky "

Further details will be found in Colonel Waddell's article *Discovery of Buddhist Remains at Mount Uren in Mungir (Monghyr) District* (published in the journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal Part I, 1892), and it will be sufficient to say that he rests the identification of the Uren Hill with the hill described by Hsien Tsiang on the geographical position and physical conformation of the hill the actual presence and co existence of all the numerous and specialized remains and rock markings noted by Hsien Tsiang, the very numerous votive Buddhist statues and *chaityas*, and the thousands of names carved on rock, indicating a sacred place of Buddhist pilgrimage the survival of the old tradition recorded by Hsien Tsiang that the hill top was the abode of a demon, the fact that his abode and footprints and the *lota* mark are still pointed out and the survival of the name and the worship of the Savage Lord Bikhura

Running out from the northern base of the Uren Hills is a small flat and somewhat rocky spur, on the northern extremity of which is situated the village of Uren. Occupying the north eastern portion of this spur and adjoining the base of the hill, is a terraced area of broken bricks, fragments of Buddhist statues and hewn stones locally known as the fort of Indradaun. Indradaun, or Indradyumna was the reigning king of Magadha at the time of the Muhammadan invasion, and he is believed to have been one of the Pala dynasty, which was Buddhist. The whole appearance of the place seems to justify the belief that the so-called *garh* or fort was originally a Buddhist monastery. It seems to have been an almost solid mass of brick buildings, and it contains numerous fragments of Buddhist statues and rough hewn lintels and door jambs.

The following descriptions of the remains still extant is given by Dr. Bloch, Superintendent Archaeological Survey, Eastern Circle. "They consist principally in tracings of *stupas* and other religious marks or emblems, which are found in a great number all over a small granite hill to the south-east of the village. The design of those *stupas* agrees so closely with the well known type of the latter period of Buddhist architecture that they cannot be much anterior to the time of Hsien Tsiang's visit if they are not even later. A great many of the tracings probably have been destroyed by stone cutters, who still seem to use this small hill as a quarry. Others have become very indistinct, as also has been the fate of a few rock inscriptions. A collection of statues is found a little to the west of the hill close to the village. They were all Buddhist with the exception only of one Gaurishankar and one Agni. I did not see many of the statues and inscriptions mentioned by Dr. Waddell. Probably the villagers have taken them away to their houses where I was told a great many ancient statues are now kept and worshipped. Excavation here, as suggested by Dr. Waddell, probably would meet with great opposition on the part of the villagers and with very

little result. The largest mound, and probably the site of various monasteries and temples, is now covered by the modern village of Uren".*

Proper excavations may still yield antiquities. It is a pity this apparently ancient village has not received much attention of the modern historians.**

* Report Arch. Surv. Bengal Circle, 1902-03

** Also see Col. D. G. Crawford's some notes on Monghyr in Bengal Past and Present—July-October, 1908 and Edward Lockwood's Natural History Import and Travel, a copy of which with brittle pages is available in the National Library, Calcutta. Lockwood was a Magistrate in Monghyr. (P. C. R. C.)

CHAPTER XIX

MONGHYR TOWN

LOCATION

Situated in 25° 23' N and 86° 28' E it is the headquarters of the district. The town is practically surrounded by the Ganga on three sides, viz., south, west and north and the Kharagpur hills forming the eastern border. It is situated in the heart of the district and its particular location has made portion of the town a beauty spot. The situation was once considered to be strategic. Monghyr has a beautiful townscape.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

There are different theories as to the origin of the name of the town. It has been identified with Madagiri of the Mahabharata. The Buddhist traditions refer to one Maudgolyagiri after a disciple of Buddha named Maudgolya and this is taken to be Monghyr. General Cunningham suggested that the place used to be called originally Mudgalapuri, Mudgalasram or Mudgalagiri, after a *rishi* named Mudgala who was supposed to have been a contemporary of Jarasandha.* According to the *Haribansa*, the name had been derived from a certain Madgal Raja, one of the sons of Vishwamitra, son of a Gadhi Raja, who received this part of his father's dominions. Madgal Raja is, at best, a mythical hero. Dr Buchanan† who had visited parts of the Monghyr district in 1810 mentions that in an inscription seven or eight centuries old found at a place and perhaps more ancient than the *Haribansa*, the name is written Mudgagiri, or the hill of Mudga, and not Mudgalpuri, or the abode of Mudgal. The existence of the saint and prince of that is perhaps therefore, problematical, as Mudga is the Sanskrit name for a kind of pulse, the *Phaseolus mungo* of Linnæus, from whence the vulgar name of the place probably derived. The last *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* published in 1926, however, mentions that Col Waddell had a doubt about the derivation of the name from *mudga* or *mung* and he has been quoted to have written thus: "The *mung* bean does not affect hilly or rocky sites, and its cultivation is widespread throughout the Gangetic plain. It seems not unlikely that the vulgar name of the fort, viz., Mungger, is merely a Muhammadan perversion of the old name, somewhat like the change by which Navadwip was converted into Nadia. The fact that the Sanskrit *mudga* can become, in Prakrit, the colloquial *mung*, is almost equally favourable to a derivation from the sage Mudgal, as in ordinary parlance many letters of the old names are eluded—thus the classical

* Reports Arch Surv India XV, 15, 16 and 18

† Buchanan's Phagapur Report (B & O Research Society, 1939)

Kashtaharini Ghat close at hand is popularly called Katharini, and the Chinese pilgrim Hsien Tsiang in the seventh century also mentions the sage Mudgalaputra in connection with this neighbourhood, and the hermitage of this sage here is still a favourable place of Hindu pilgrimage. It seems, therefore, more probable that the place derives its name from this sage than from the species of pulse called *mung**. All this discussion of the name being derived from 'Mung' appears rather far fetched. It is not that "Mung" is the most important crop in the district or the town.

The *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926), further puts in regarding the derivation of the name which was gathered from an intelligent local Brahmin who gave the following account of the origin of the name - 'In the sixth century after Christ, a Hindu sage, named Mudgal Muni, appeared in the city and established two shrines, one at a rock at Kashtaharini, and the other on the rock known as Manpatthar. On the former religious rites were performed during the rainy season, and on the latter, during the dry season. Both these places are still esteemed sacred by the Hindus. In course of time the rock at Kashtaharini was called Madgal Munigiri (the rock of Madgal Muni), which was subsequently abbreviated into Munigiri and eventually corrupted to Mungiri, from which the modern town took its name. The Gazetteer adds: It will be noticed that all these legends agree in saying that a *muni* or sage lived here in olden days, and Mr C. E. A. W. Oldham, I.C.S., a former Collector, who first brought the above local legend to notice, suggests that it is possible that the original name was Munigriha, i.e., the house or abode of the *muni*—without any specification of his name—that this was corrupted to Mungiri just as Rajagriha has been corrupted to Rajgir, and that the modern Monghyr is a further corruption." Dr Buchanan says that Major Wilford suggested Sagala to be another ancient name for Mungger, but Buchanan found no support for it. The Pala inscriptions found at Monghyr called the place Mudgagiri. General Cunningham has another source of origin to suggest for he says: "I have strong suspicion, however, that the original name may have been connected with the Mons or Mundas, who occupied this part of the country before the advent of the Aryans. It is, however, not impossible that this name may have been derived from the Sanskrit *Muni*, the hill is said to have been the residence of the *Muni* Mudgala, and is, therefore, known as *Muni Parvata*, as well as *Mudgalagiri*." Monghyr is said to have had another name, that is Guptagarh, after the great Chandragupta of the Guptas, who built up the town, according to the stone inscription found at Monghyr.

Hsien Tsiang the Chinese traveller who came to India in seventh century A. D. has left an account in which a place named

* Note on an old inscription from Mungir. Proc. A. S. R. 1890 pages 191-192

Hiranya Parvata (I lan ha po-fa to according to Chinese dialect) has been mentioned, which has been identified as the place where Mudgalaputra, a Buddhist disciple lived. The description of the location resembles to the location of Monghyr town.

It will be seen that the plethora of theories about the origin of the name at least suggests that Monghyr is an ancient town.

HISTORY OF MONGHYR

Monghyr town does not find specific mention in the *Vedas*. But in the 26th *Adhyaya* (chapter) of *Adi Kanda* of the *Valmiki's Ramayana*, it is mentioned that both Ramchandra and his brother Lakshmana on their way back from the encounter with Taraka, the demoness, took rest at the spot. The relaxation they had, gave rise to the name of Kashtaharini or comfort from relaxation. This is the spot where Kashtaharini Ghat stands. At Sitakund Lakshmana is said to have drawn water from depths of the earth to quench the fire after Sita had come out unscathed and successful from her fire ordeal. The name of Sitakund is highly suggestive. It is only four miles from Monghyr town. In the *Digvijay parva* of the *Mahabharata*, it is mentioned that Bhim on his adventure to the eastern regions fought at Modagiri and defeated the local chief. The description given by Bhim coincides with the one in the 32nd *Adhyaya* of *Adikanda* of the *Ramayana* and both these descriptions indicate the present location of the town of Monghyr.

Dr Buchanan provides an interesting information about that adventure of Bhim. He writes 'The remains of antiquity, which according to tradition goes farthest back, are on a hill called *Nauya garhi*, south east about four miles from Mungger. It is said to have been the prison where Jarasandha, king of Magadha, had confined 80,000 of the princes of India, whom in pursuit of universal monarchy he had taken prisoners, and intended to sacrifice to the Gods, but fortunately he was killed by Bhim, the brother of Yudhishtir, who afterwards contested the sovereignty of India with his kinsman Duryodhan. Another tradition is that the fort in Monghyr was built by Jarasandha. Even now many villages mention the Monghyr fort as Jarasandha Kila. Another popular belief is that Monghyr was the capital of Anga during the reign of Karna of *Mahabharata*. The hillock inside the eastern part of the fort called Karanchaura may have led to this. Dr Buchanan is disinclined to identify Karna of Karanchaura to Karna of *Mahabharata*. He says 'Next to this I find celebrated in this division a Karna Raja, who, as I have said, is by the traditions here made contemporary with Vikrama sovereign of India and who is here supposed to have attempted but without success, to have seized on the power of that monarch. With respect to Vikrama such confusion prevails, as appears from Major Wilford's valuable treatise on the subject, in the 9th volume of the *Asiatick Researches*, that no attention need be paid to any traditions

concerning a person of such dubious existence. This very Karna is indeed one of the persons, who according to Major Wilford is styled Vikrama Karna, as I have said, paid particular attention to the worship of the tutelary goddess of Mungger, and built a house on the hill now occupied by the elegant quarters of the Commandant, and in the time of Major Rennell's survey by a saluting battery. This hill is still called Karnachaura, and the house upon it was not intended for the residence of the prince, but for the distribution of alms. Two tanks near the hill, are considered as the work of the king and of his wife."

The *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) mentions — It is mentioned in the *Mahabharata* under the name of Modagiri, and a passage in the *Sabhaparva*, describing Bhim's conquests in Eastern India, says that after defeating Karna, king of Anga, he fought a battle at Modagiri and killed its chief. Here we find Karna of the *Mahabharata* being identified probably with the Karna of Karan chaura. In spite of the various references and theorisation it is not possible to glean much about Monghyr town in the epic period.

Later we find Monghyr being annexed by king Bimbisara after defeating king Brahmadatta during the life time of Gautama Buddha. One Gupta inscription of 488 A. D. was found in Monghyr. It has been mentioned earlier that Chandragupta had built the town which was named after him as Guptagarh. In the 5th century A. D. Fa-hsien, the noted Chinese traveller, passed through this town but has left no account of a place called Modagiri identified with Monghyr. Then Monghyr appears to have passed under the Palas of Bengal. From different inscriptions issued from Monghyr by different Pala kings and emperors it is gathered that Monghyr had at least been their capital for military purposes. Monghyr is also associated with Rampal who is said to have drowned himself in the Ganga on hearing the death of his maternal uncle while he was residing at Monghyr. Indradrumnapal, the last of the Palas, left Monghyr for Orissa on the arrival of the Moslem hordes from north west.

In the 12th century A. D. Monghyr passed under the hands of Moslems when Bakhtiyar Khilji defeated the last Pala king in Bihar. Though Bihar (Bihar Shariff) became the capital of the new rulers, Monghyr retained its former importance. Records mention that Monghyr was attacked and plundered by the lieutenants of Mahmud Khilji, son of Bakhtiyar Khilji. In 1330 A. D. Monghyr was annexed to Delhi Sultanat by Muhammad Tughlaq. Till that period Monghyr remained under the continuous occupation of the Sultans of Bengal. It passed under the Jaunpur Kingdom from 1337 onwards. Sikandar Lodi, after the death of his father Bahlol Lodi, conquered Bihar in 1488 A. D. and occupied Monghyr. Monghyr, however, again passed under Bengal when in 1494 A. D. Hussain Shah, the Sultan of Bengal defeated the Delhi Sultans and captured Bihar. With this

monarch and his son prince Danyal, Monghyr's history is intimately connected. Dr Buchanan writes about Hussain Shah's contribution to the town of Monghyr: 'Hoseyn Shah, the greatest of the kings of Bengal, extended his dominions on both sides of the river, as far at least as Mungger, and is said to have built the present fort, which although not strong has been very magnificent structure'. He gives a detailed account of the fort and says: "In the northern gateway, which is built of stone, are many materials, that have evidently been taken from ruins, as the ornamented stones are built into the wall without any attention to symmetry, and these ruins have evidently been Hindu, as on a stone of hornblende in mass, which appears to have been the lintel of a door or window, there are figures in the human form, concerning which the men of Hindu lore are not agreed. One end of the stone is hid by the wall, but in the accompanying drawing (no 20) will be found a representation of what projects, which is the most elegant design of Hindu sculpture that I have yet seen. The execution is however less neat than the design, and the drawing therefore looks much better than the original. On the inside of this gate is also a figure carved on granite, and representing the human form (see Drawing no 21). Although this is very rude, I refer it to the same period with the other, and attribute the difference in execution to the difference of materials, for so far as I have seen in their works, the natives of the north of India have never possessed means of cutting granite with any tolerable neatness.

'Near a silly port on the inside of the rampart, the fall of the plaster, by which the building was encrusted, has discovered two stones of almost exactly the same pattern with that at the water gate, but smaller. These have probably been part of windows and it is probable that an accurate examination of the whole wall would discover many such. A very cursory view disclosed several in different parts of the wall, two of which are represented in Drawings nos 29 and 30. The former represents the five great gods of the orthodox Hindus with four nymphs. The latter in a foliage has a human head between two sheep of which the Pandits give no explanation. I do not think that the ruins, from whence these carved stones have been taken, can be referred to any other era with so much probability as to that of the Karni Rajas. The other gates of the fort have been covered with carving but this is evidently Moslem work, carving consisting entirely of foliages, and every stone being suited by its ornaments to fit the place which it occupies with symmetry. The stone employed in these gates is very different from either of the former and is a material of very small durability."

Hunter in his *Statistical Account of Monghyr* (1871) mentions on the authority of Stewart's *History of Bengal*, that two noblemen of Sultan Sikandar Lodi of Delhi, met the Prince (Danyal) in the town of Barh, and concluded a treaty, the terms of which were that the

Emperor should retain Behar, Tirhut and Sarkar Saran, provided he did not invade Bengal. Prince Danyal most probably was the Governor of Eastern Bihar on behalf of his father. He repaired the fortifications of Monghyr, and built, in 1497 A. D., the vault over the shrine of Shah Nafah, the Muhammedan patron of the town*. In 1521 Nasrat Shah, or more popularly known as Nasib Shah, son of Hussain Shah, breached the above treaty and invaded Tirhut. He put his son in law, Makhdum Alum as the Governor and stationed him at Hajipur.

After this Monghyr became the headquarters of the Behar army on behalf of the Bengal kings and was for a considerable time under the command of Kutab Khan, a general of high repute, whose defeat by Sher Shah in A. D. 1533 was the first great success of that chief in the struggles which afterwards placed him on the throne of Delhi. Monghyr then passed under Sher Shah's control, where he defeated Humayun, on his retreat from Bengal. In this engagement Dilawar Khan, son of Daulat Khan Lodi, and ancestor of the renowned Khan Jahan Lodi in the reign of Shah Jahan, was captured by Sher Shah. From A. D. 1545, Mian Sulaiman, an Afghan of the Kararani tribe, took possession of Monghyr on behalf of Islam Shah, son of Sher Shah. Later Sulaiman entered into an alliance with Bahadur Shah, king of Bengal and defeated and killed Adil Shah near Monghyr in 1557. In 1563, Sulaiman became ruler of Bengal and Bihar but acknowledged the suzerainty of Akbar. Later Monghyr remained under the occupation of Todar Mall, who was sent by Akbar to bring into submission the 30,000 horse, military rebels of the Bengal army of Mughals. Todar Mall ultimately was successful in reducing the rebels. He encamped near Bhagalpur by sealing off their lines of supply and repaired the fortifications at Monghyr. Buchanan mentions "Akbar took Mungger after a severe battle in the vicinity, but so ignorant of history are the people here, that they imagine the prince who lost it, to have been Hoseyn Shah, who preceded Akbar by at least a century". During the period of the Mughal Government, Monghyr continued to be a place of importance both strategically and for commerce. The river front of Monghyr was fully exploited for these purposes.

In A. D. 1657, Monghyr became the headquarters of revolt against Delhi, when Shah Sujah, the second son of Shah Jahan, on hearing of his father's illness raised the standard of revolt and

* Vide Hunter's *Statistical Account of Monghyr*, 1877, p. 64. This is shown by an inscription put up by Danyal on the eastern wall of the *darga* or shrine of the saint, which lies on an elevated spot reached by a flight of steps, near the old wall of the town. At the foot there are many tombs in a dilapidated state. The *khadims* of the *darga* say that when the fortifications were being repaired, Danyal dreamed that a grave near the wall emitted a smell of musk. The grave was discovered and the Prince built a vault over it, for the tenant of the tomb was clearly a saint. From this circumstance, the saint up to this day is called Shah Nafah, from the Persian *nafah* a pod of musk."

claimed the imperial title. He repaired the fortress and at the same time erected lines to the west of it, extending from the hills to the Ganga and about six miles in length. The channel called Dakranala strengthened these lines towards the west, but the prince built over it a bridge, which according to Dr Buchanan was the largest he had seen in the course of his survey. Shah Sujah retired to Monghyr after his defeat in 1658, at Bahadurpur, near Banaras, by Sulaiman, the son of Dara Shikoh. Monghyr held out against the victor, till he was summoned back to Agra to assist his father against Aurangzeb. In 1659 Monghyr again afforded Shujah shelter after his defeat at Kudwa by Aurangzeb till Mir Jumla turned his position by sending troops through Sherghatti passes, and forced him to retire on Rajmahal.

Mirza Safi, retitled Saif Khan, was the husband of Afkha Banu, eldest sister of Mumtaj Mahal, the lady of the Taj. When Saif Khan became the Governor of Bihar in 1628 A. D. he undertook construction of public utilities. Peter Mundy speaks very highly of them. The inception of Safiabadd township near Jamalpur and Safiasarai and a big well in Monghyr are commonly attributed to Saif Khan.

A Dutch physician, Dr Nicholas Graft, was brought down to Monghyr as a prisoner in the early 17th century. He has left an account of the town and especially of the fort, the massive walls and bastions which impressed him much. The arrangements for fortification were quite adequate for those times. The fort though not as well maintained had its attraction to all the visitors and continued to hold a strategic role.

In 1745 A. D. Mustafa Khan, the rebel General of Alivardi Khan, attacked Monghyr while on his way to the north. He sent his relative Abdul Rasul Khan with a small contingent to secure the fort. The invaders sealed off the walls against heavy odds and captured the fort. But, as one soldier was getting up the wall, one stone slab slipped from the top and fell upon the head of Abdul Rasul Khan, who died of the injury. In spite of the loss of this brave commander Mustafa Khan celebrated his victory with much gaiety and returned to Patna after three days. He carried away some of the guns and ammunitions from the fort.

Regarding Monghyr, *Ain-i-Akbari* has large references. It will be worthwhile to refer to Hunter, who mentions that according to *Ain-i-Akbari*, Monghyr was the chief town of Sarkar Monghyr which consisted of 31 *mahals* or *parganas*. Pargana Monghyr itself was assessed at 8,08,707½ *dams* (40 *dams* being equal to 1 *Akbarshahi* rupee) as per Todar Mall's rent roll. Raja Man Singh had his residence at Monghyr for some time when a pious Muhammadan named, Shah Drulaf, a friend of the Raja tried to convert the latter to Islam. Kassem Khan was in charge of Sarkar Monghyr during

the reign of Jahangir. Two *jagirdars* of Monghyr are also mentioned—Sardar Khan and Hassan Ali Khan (1619 A. D.). In 1628 A. D., Saiyyid Muhammad Mukhtar Khan was appointed *tayuldar* of Monghyr in the first year of Shah Jahan's reign. He distinguished himself in war with the Ujjainih Rajas of Dumraon in Gaya about A. D. 1637. Another *tayuldar* of Monghyr was Mahaldar Khan. The historians of Aurangzeb's reign mention one Mullah Muhammad Sayyid, who wrote under the nom-de-plume of 'Ashraf'. He was a poet of repute and enjoyed the favours of Prince Azim-us-Shan, Aurangzeb's grandson. He was also the teacher of Zebunnissa Begam, the daughter of Aurangzeb and a renowned poetess. The poet died at Monghyr in 1672 on his way to Mecca and was buried there. His grave is within the fort.

Monghyr's previous position was restored by Mir Kasim when he made it his capital to drive out the British from Bengal. His favourite Armenian General Gurgin Khan established an arsenal in the fort underlining the skill in gunsmithy and trade in firearms which must have been at a high incidence at that time. Trade and commerce flourished through the river and caused a good deal of heart-burning between the Company and their rivals.

The town continued to hold its pre-eminence till Mir Kasim's defeat at Udhua Nalah in October, 1763 A. D. A spot is shown near Kashtaharini Ghat on the river side, from where Raja Ramnarayan, the Seths, wealthy bankers from Bengal and others were thrown in the Ganga with pitchers full of sands, under the orders of Mir Kasim.

Mir Kasim brought all his treasures, troops and elephants from Mursidabad to Monghyr. Gurgin Khan imparted military training to the soldiers. Shortly after his shifting to Monghyr, Mir Kasim fell out with the East India Company and chafed at the repeated breaches of the British agents regarding payment of taxation and customs. Mir Kasim lodged a strong protest to the British Governor at Calcutta against the highhandedness of British merchants and their agents. On receiving this protest Governor Vansittart personally came down to Monghyr when he halted at the palace built by Gurgin Khan for his own use on the top of Pirpahar. He was lavishly entertained and presents of ornaments, etc., and lakhs of rupees were made to him. Vansittart's mission did not, however, produce a lasting solution. Mir Kasim, out of disgust, withdrew all kinds of taxation even from Indian merchants. This action resulted in a huge loss to the Company and was looked upon as an open breach of their relationship. Many English prisoners were brought by Nawab's troops to Monghyr fort. Mir Kasim sent his family and children to Rohtas Garh and himself marched to Udhua Nala along with General Gurgin Khan. He met his defeat at Udhua Nalah as already mentioned.

The fort at Monghyr was renovated and repaired by Mir Kasim, who resided in it for nearly two years. The accommodations in

the fort then occupied by Mir Kasim as his public palace must have been very large but later a substantial part had been pulled down. Dr Buchanan therefore could not have judged as to the form of style in which the fort was built. The ladies of Mir Kasim's harem were said to have occupied the buildings outside the gate leading to Patna. The building was of a considerable size but rather clumsy. The chief mosque in Major Rennell's time had been converted into a powder magazine but as a building more appropriate for that purpose had been erected the mosque had become the store house of an European trader. Dr Buchanan also mentions a private chapel vastly superior to that at Rajmahal. Buchanan could catch a good picture of what Monghyr was in Mir Kasim's time.

The fort of Monghyr which Mir Kasim had left under the Governorship of Arballi Khan ultimately capitulated on 2nd October 1763 to the British troops under Major Adams but not before the fort had been subjected to furious cannonade by the latter for full two days.

About Mir Kasim and his exploits detailed records have been made in *Shair ul Mutakhirin* by Ghulam Hussain. It is said that apart from losing his kingdom and the country's independence at Monghyr Mir Kasim also lost his beloved children shot by Britishers near the fort. Some put the number of children to be four two sons and two daughters. But others make it two one daughter and one son. There are pathetic stories about his children.

It is said that Princess Gul and Prince Bahar used to hide under the tunnels by the riverside in order to wreak vengeance upon the British officers. They used to clothe themselves with tiger skins during the nights. Once Bahar on his round in a dark night was caught sight of by a British officer who instantaneously shot the Prince dead. The truth was revealed next morning and the Prince was said to have been buried by the *darga* of Pir Shah Nafah Gul. The Princess was found dead in a man's attire by the side of her brother's tomb where she was also buried. The officer responsible for Bahar's and incidentally Gul's death ordered for a daily salute of guns in the evening to mourn the loss of these children.

About the subsequent history and development of Monghyr and the references to the natural beauty and trade and commerce of the town by European travellers a few paragraphs from the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* (1926) with necessary changes will be of interest —

The fort was for some time occupied by some of the troops of the East India Company and in 1766 was the scene of an outbreak among the European officers known as the White Mutiny which was effectually quelled by Lord Clive. After this the fortifications were gradually allowed to fall into disrepair and it is clear from the account given by the artist William Hodges in 1781 that it was no

longer an important position. Hodges visited Monghyr twice in that year—on the second occasion as a guest of Warren Hastings who was on his way to meet Chait Singh at Benares, but his description of the buildings is, on the whole, so inaccurate that it is not worth quoting.

Towards the close of the 18th century we find that Monghyr was merely a station for half pay and invalid officers and men, who formed 'a little garrison, sufficient at least for the protection of a depot of military stores, and of a powder magazine established there. The latter was said to cause sometimes no little uneasiness to the veterans accustomed as they were to gunpowder. For the most vivid lightning often falls about Monghyr, attracted by the iron ore which abounds in the neighbouring hills, and if it fell upon the magazine, the whole fort would certainly be destroyed by the explosion'*. The place, however, was noted for its salubrious climate, and Warren Hastings speaks in one of his letters of the delightful change of atmosphere from that of Bengal.

Later visitors also wrote in high terms of Monghyr and of its manufactures but one and all appear to have been much annoyed by the crowds of beggars that infested the place. Bishop Heber, who visited Monghyr in 1823, writes — Monghyr, as one approaches it presents an imposing appearance having one or two extremely good European houses, each perched on its own little eminence. The fort occupies a great deal of ground but is now dismantled. Its gates, battlements, etc., are all of Asiatic architecture, and precisely similar to those of the Khitaigorod of Moscow. Within is an ample plain of fine turf dotted with a few trees, and two noble tanks of water, the largest covering I conceive, a couple of acres. Two high grassy knolls are enclosed within the rampart, occupying two opposite angles of the fort, which is an irregular square with I think, 12 semi-circular bastions, and a very wide and deep wet moat, except on the west side where it rises immediately from the rocky banks of the river. On one of the eminences of which I speak is a collection of prison like buildings on the other a very large and handsome house built originally for the Commander in Chief of the district at the time that Monghyr was an important station and the Marathas were in the neighbourhood but it was sold some years since by Government. The view from the rampart and the eminences is extremely fine, Monghyr stands on a rocky promontory, with the broad river on both sides forming two bays beyond one of which the Rajmahal Hills are visible, and the other is bounded by the nearer range of Kharagpur. Elsewhere the Bishop with his myeterate love of comparing Indian with European places describes these hills as being not inferior to the Halkin mountains and the range above Flint and Holywell †.

* *Twining Travels in India a hundred years ago 1893*

† R. Heber Narrative of a journey through the Upper Provinces of India 1872

A quaint account is also given in *Up the Country* by Miss Emily Eden, who came to Monghyr in November, 1837. She was met by all the English residents, six in number, "and that is what they call a large station" She was much struck by the inland tables and boxes, "and there was the prettiest doll's furniture possible, tables and cane-chairs, and sofas and footstools, of such curious workmanship" Like other visitors, she drove off to Sitakund

The drive there was a real refreshment It is the first time for two years I have felt the carriage going up hill at all, and this was not a simple slope, but a good regular hill Then we came to some genuine rock great, bleak, grey stones, with weeds growing between them, and purple hills in the distance I felt better directly"

Fanny Parkes visited the place in 1836 and 1844, when she wrote—"The moment we anchored we were assailed with hundreds of beggars, their clamour and cries were most annoying, they were a complete pest, driving them away was useless The people selling pistols, necklaces, bathing chairs, baskets, toys, shoes, etc., raised such a hubbub, it was disgusting" She wrote, however, in great admiration of the view from the river "The fort is a good object, but on turning to the corner how much was I charmed to see the most picturesque cluster of *bairagi* temples imaginable The *maths* are surrounded by fine trees, the ruined bastion of the old fort juts out into the river, and has fragments of rock at its base The high spires of the white temples seen among the trees, the slender bamboos with their bright red or white flags, and a sort of Hindu altar in front, are beautifully grouped The Directory tells you of the articles in the *bazar* but omits these gems of oriental beauty, which are invaluable to a lover of the picturesque Beyond this stretch the walls of the old fort, which are of very great extent, and the view of Monghyr is good from this part of the Ganges Among the articles manufactured here, the black vases for flowers, turned in white wood, and lacquered whilst on the lathe with sealing wax, are pretty The necklaces and bracelets in imitation of jet, at two or three rupees the set, are beautifully made, necklaces of St Agnes beads monkeys, chameleons and male bamboos—everything is forthcoming in the *bazar*, with the exception of ducks The steamer's passage is from ten to fourteen days to this place—398 miles by the *Bhagirathi*, 686 by the *Sundarbans* and 304 by *dak*, the latter runs in two days and three quarters"

A later traveller, Sir Joseph Hooker, describes Monghyr as "by far the prettiest town I had seen on the river, backed by a long range of wooded hills, detached outliers of which rise in the very town The banks are steep, and they appear more so owing to the fortifications, which are extensive A number of large, white, two-storied houses, some very imposing, and perched on rounded or conical hills, give a European aspect to the place Monghyr is celebrated for its iron manufactures, especially of muskets, in which respect it

is the Birmingham of Bengal. Generally speaking, these weapons are poor, though stamped with the first English names. A native workman will, however, if time and sufficient reward be given, turn out a first rate fowling piece. The inhabitants are reported to be sad drunkards, and the abundance of toddy palms was quite remarkable."

"Monghyr did not become an administrative centre till 1812, though the old fort was occupied long before that date by a regiment of the East India Company. At present it is a purely civil station and, in some respects, one of the most picturesque in Bengal. It consists of two distinct portions, viz, the fort, within which the public offices and the residences of most of the Europeans and the town outside it stretching away to the east and south. The fort is formed by a great rampart of earth, faced with stone, which encloses a rocky eminence projecting some distance into the Ganges. On the west, the river comes up to the walls and forms a defence on that side, landwards, a deep and wide moat surrounds and protects it. The fort, being built on a foundation of quartzite rock, effectually keeps off any encroachment by the Ganges but the river oscillates like the pendulum of a clock, taking, it is said, about 80 years between each oscillation. Thus, we find that in 1875 it arrived at its southern limit close to the temple of Chandisthan, and the priests then pointed out the marks made 80 years before by tying ropes on a palm tree imbedded in a *pipal* tree. Old maps show the width of the Ganges as only a mile and a half but a few years before 1908 it cut away a large expanse of sand near the East Indian Railway* station, and the now crossing from the station to the embankment of the Bengal and North Western Railway branch line† to Monghyr Ghat is fully three miles. In September, 1908, the Ganges encroached still further cutting away the river bank near the railway station and forming a deep pot hole below it. Huts on or near the bank were carried away and trains had to stop at a level crossing about a quarter of a mile from the station."

"To one entering the fort from the railway station by the main gate, known as the Lal Darwaza or Red Gate Monghyr presents a picturesque appearance. The main road runs southwards between two large tanks, behind each of which there is a low hillock. On one of these is the Karnachaura house built by General Goddard which was originally the residence of the general in command. Subsequently it was acquired by the Maharaja of Vizianagram, and now it is the property of Kumar Kamalaranjan Rai of Cossimbazar ‡

* Now Eastern Railway

† Now North Eastern Railway

‡ The building had some very fine antique furniture and paintings. The oldest sketch of the building in the Proprietors's possession is one dated 1804. "Country Life" in November 1959 published a sketch of the building by Henry Salt in 1803.

On the other was a fine building known as the *Damdama Kothi* which has been demolished. Beyond the latter is the palace of Shahi Shuja which has been converted into a jail and between them lie the Government gardens. The Karnachanra site is a natural rocky eminence in the north east corner of the fort. The other hillock is an artificial rectangular mound which was the citadel or acropolis of the fort. Most of the public buildings are also inside the fort the most important being the civil revenue and criminal courts which consist of three parallel rows of buildings*. They were built more for utility than for beauty and mar the effect of the picturesque surroundings. The district board office appears to have been built on the same principle and the municipal office building is no better. To the west of the courts a trim little ivy-clad church is seen and to the east of them the English church of the Baptist Mission built in 1898 to replace a more costly structure erected on the same site in 1863 which was destroyed by the earthquake of 1897. At the eastern gate of the fort was a red brick clock tower over a horse shoe arch presented to the town by the late Mr. Herschell Dear. This clock tower fell down during the earthquake of 1934 and has not been raised again.

Near the north gate of the fort is an old cemetery which is full of the obelisk tombs erected at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century which Bishop Heber noticed as almost distinctive of European India. The earliest of these monuments consists of a massive black stone pillar probably once part of a temple which was erected to the memory of a youth named Stewart who died at Monghyr in 1769 aged 19 years. The next grave is that of John McCabe Deputy Commissary General at Monghyr who died here in 1789. Perhaps however the most interesting monument is that of Captain John Williams presumably the author of *The Rise and Progress of the Bengal Native Infantry*. He is described as having commanded the invalid battalion of the garrison for many years and as having died on board the Honble East India Company's ship *Northumberland* near the Western Islands on 20th June 1809 aged 68. A visit to the cemeteries recalls the old days in Monghyr when there was a sizeable European Christian population in the district.

The oldest building inside the fort is a Muhammadan shrine built on an elevated piece of ground near the southern gate. It is supposed to contain the grave of a *pir* or saint whose name is unknown. He is said to have come from Persia to Ajmer and to have directed his steps thence to Monghyr under instructions from Khlwaja Moin ud-din Chishti an early Muhammadan missionary in India. The saint lived here for many years and died about the year

* Another massive two storied building has been built (1959) after the above was written to accommodate the administrative offices of the District Magistrate. There have also been other additions to some other Government offices (P. C. R. C.)

596 A H, corresponding to 1177 A D He was buried in an obscure place near the ramparts, and with the lapse of years his burial place was forgotten Ultimately, in 1497 A D, when the ramparts of the fort were being repaired by the Governor, Prince Danyal caused a mosque to be built over it, and ever since that day it has been known as the *darga* of Shah Nafa, *nafa* being a Persian word meaning a pod of musk Over the gateway there is an inscription set up by Prince Danyal, and round the shrine are many old tombs in a dilapidated state The poet Ashraf's grave has been referred to

"Coming to historic times, we know that when the British first occupied Monghyr, they found the remains of a building on the hill and afterwards erected a saluting battery on it This seems clearly the hill of which the capture by Captain Smith played such an important part in the White Mutiny of 1766, as related in Chapter II Subsequently a house was built on it, which William Hodges, accurately enough in an otherwise inaccurate account, mentions as having been built by General Goddard and as being the residence of the Commanding Officer General Goddard, it may be mentioned took part in his young days in the White Mutiny at Monghyr At the close of the 18th century General Briscoe lived in this house which is referred to as follows by Mr Twining in *Travels in India a hundred years ago* — General Briscoe was the oldest General in the Company's service He had a noble mansion, situated upon the summit of a small hill within the fort, near the lower angle It commanded a beautiful view of the river and of the country opposite and also of the small bay in which our fleet was moored All boats proceeding up the river were here obliged to cross to the other side, opposite the fort, in order to avoid a bastion which advanced into the river, and opposing the current—here very strong—threw it off with a violence that made it impossible for any boat to pass on this side" *

The Damdama *Kothi* already referred to was another old building, which was demolished in order to make room for the residence of the Collector Hardly any impression could be made on the solid brick walls by ordinary methods, and they had to be blown up by gunpowder, bit by bit When the debris was removed, numerous holes were discovered showing the former existence of underground rooms Inside a well in the compound, just above the water level, two arched passages were found, one leading towards the house, and the other in the opposite direction, towards the ground now occupied by the jail The latter occupies one of the finest sites in the town and consists of a number of detached buildings with a high wall on three sides and the river on the fourth

* Another old house still existing is the wood brooke house, now a hospital of P T Factory Mrs Hooby, commonly known as Mother Hooby, a widow rana boarding house here referred to by E B Eastwick in his Handbook of Bengal Presidency (1882) This house is first outside the southern gate of the fort

One of the buildings, now included in the jail and used as a sleeping ward, was the magazine in Muhammadan times, and the building with its massive walls is still intact. The hospital is said to have been the palace *zanana*, and the godowns include a building believed to have been a small mosque. "In the floor of this mosque", writes Colonel Crawford, "underneath the centre dome, is a dry well or pit, some ten or twelve feet deep. From this well four subterranean passages lead off in different directions. These passages had all been bricked up, a few yards from their entrances, many years before I went to Monghyr. There was a tradition that some prisoners had made their escape from the jail (it is not likely that they ever got out at the other end) along one of these passages, years before. I believe that one of these passages went down to the river bank, which is just outside a second to a large well in the garden, a third to the subterranean rooms at the Point. Where the fourth may go, I am not prepared to hazard any suggestion, tradition says to Pirpahar, but three miles is rather a tall order for a practicable underground passage." *

At the north-western corner of the fort is an ancient bathing *ghat* known as the Kashtaharini Ghat. This name means "the bathing place which expels pain", the tradition being that all people afflicted by grief or bodily pain were at once cured by bathing here. There is a cluster of six temples here which attract crowds of pilgrims during the Rakhi Purnamashi festival. Three of the temples were built about 100 years ago, viz., the shrine of Gangaji, erected by Lalji Sahu, father of Babu Ganga Prasad, a resident of the town, and the shrines of Siva and Rama Janaki both erected by Kanhai Sahu Halwai, also of Monghyr. The temple of Jagannath was built about ten years later by one Baijnath of Bari Bazir, the temple of Radha Krishna by Babus Bulaki Lal and Ganga Prasad about 50 years ago and the temple of Lakshmi Narain about 40 years ago by Shri Kamaleshwari Prasad Singh a public spirited zamindar of Monghyr. On the wall of the gateway here is an inscription of about the 10th century A D which mentions a king Bhagirath and refers to the building of a temple of Siva. There is also an old idol with a mutilated nose lying neglected outside one of the temples, apparently of Buddhist type, but having four arms. The view of the *ghat* from the river is charming, particularly on a festival day, when it is crowded with pilgrims in their holiday dresses, or at night, when it is illuminated. Near this *ghat* is a park now known as Sri Krishna *Batika* after the name of Dr Sri Krishna Sinha, the present Chief Minister of Bihar who comes from Monghyr district and spent his early years as a lawyer in the town of Monghyr.

There is another bathing *ghat* which was built fifty years ago by Shri Ram Prasad Das, father of Sri Kamaleshwari Prasad Singh. This is generally called the Babua Ghat or the Welcome Ghat and

* Col Crawford's Some Notes on Monghyr Bengal Past and Present July 1903

it was used as a landing place by Viceroys and Governors when coming to Monghyr by river. Both names have a quaint origin. The Indian name is due to the fact that Sri Kamaleshwari Prasad Singh was known popularly as Babuaji that being a pet name given to the eldest sons of Indian gentlemen. The name Welcome Ghat is due to the fact that on both sides of the *ghat* the word 'Welcome' used to be inscribed in large letters.

It remains to note the improvements effected in the fort in more modern times. In a letter dated 1859 addressed to the Collector of Monghyr the Magistrate Mr Birch speaks of the unhealthy state of the south and south west portion of the fort which is densely crowded with native huts and *kutchas* houses surrounded by low jungle and in the most filthy state. The conservancy carts cannot remedy the evil as there are no roads to penetrate the labyrinth of huts. The Commissioner submitted in 1867 proposals for the improvement of the fort reporting that Mr Dear, a liberal and public spirited gentleman resident of Monghyr who is much attached to the place and who has at his own expense carried out the measures of improvement, and an Indian gentleman Shah Wajid Ali were willing to buy out the occupants of the huts over 18 *bighas* 14 *kathas* and 17½ *dhurs* of land and to build thereon European houses if a fifty years lease of the land be granted to them. This proposal was accepted and the scheme successfully carried out. Mr Dear built a number of good hungalows many of which still exist and house Government offices. Dear also presented to the town a clock tower over the eastern gate of the fort. The fort became the most fashionable residential quarter but the number of houses inside is limited. At present there are more than 100 residential houses and a large number of Government buildings and institutions. Mention should also be made of a park near the Circuit House which has some rare plants and trees.

In concluding this account of the fort reference may be made to its picturesque position and historical associations. These have been well described by Mr H. Beveridge — Few things are more more beautiful or impressive than to sit on a moonlight night on one of the bastions and listen to the Ganges lapping against the foot of the rampart. The great river still flows quietly on careless whether she be crowded with shipping or is, as she has now become, an almost deserted highway. But how many stirring events have taken place at this promontory since the day when Sita landed at the Kashiwarani Ghat close by and went to meet her doom at Sitakund. Hindus, Buddhists, Muhammadans and Christians have successively come here and erected their places of worship and now all have more or less passed away. It was here that Todar Mal contended with the rebels against Akbar. It was here that Ellis and his companions were brought after the disaster at Manjhi and before they were taken back to Patna to be massacred. It was from a bastion

of the fort, it is said, that the Seth and his faithful servant were flung into the river. It was from the Patna gate that Mir Kasim's wife and huge train of followers set out for Rohtas when the news came of the defeat at Gheriah.*

Little is known about the history of the portion of the town outside the fort. The earliest mention of value in the Collectorate records appears to be in a letter from the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur or 12th Division to the Secretary to the Sadr Board of Revenue at Fort William, dated the 29th May, 1850. He writes: "It appears from the records that the native town and bazar of Monghyr have for a long period (ever since our first occupation of the country) been considered Government property, denominated the Military or Campoo Bazar. This, though constituting one *mahal* was divided into 12 *tarafs*, viz., (1) Bara Bazar, (2) Deorhee Bazar, (3) Goddard Bazar, (4) Wellesly Bazar, (5) Moghal Bazar, (6) Gorhee Tola, (7) Batemanganj, (8) Topkhana Bazar, (9) Panok Bazar *urf* Dalhatta Bazar, (10) Belan Bazar, (11) Rasoolganj, (12) Begumpur Mandaye." It would appear from the above that the Military Bazar Government estate represents the lands attached to and more immediately adjoining the fort. There have been considerable additions, and the Government estate at the present time extends over a little more than two-thirds of a square mile, or less than an eighth of the entire municipal area (76 square miles). There are quite a few fine houses in this area besides a large tobacco factory erected by the Peninsular Tobacco Company at Basdeopur, the Zila School, and the hospital, which is built on an eminence facing the fort on the eastern side. There is a small Marwari *dharamshala* close to the *Purabstari* Railway Station, and a more commodious one near the Monghyr Railway Station was recently built by Babu Bijnath Goenka a Marwari resident of the town.

The quarter known as Dilawarpur contains the residence of a leading Muhammadan family known as the Shah family. It traces back its descent to Hazrat Maulana Shah Mustapha Sufi, a man of great learning who was a native of Seistan in Persia. The fame of his learning reached the ears of Akbar, who invited him to his court in Delhi where he became one of the Emperor's most trusted counsellors. When Akbar marched south to crush the rebellion of the Afghans in Bihar and Bengal, he was accompanied by Shah Mustapha Sufi who distinguished himself in the field and made it clear that he possessed supernatural powers. Hearing of the holy life led by a saint of Monghyr called Hazrat Shah Allahdad Arifin, and of the miracles he wrought he gave up the idea of a worldly

* *Notes of a Holiday Trip to Malda and Bihar* Calcutta Review 1891. The writer explains that the legend of the Seths being killed at Monghyr is probably incorrect (cf. Chapter II) but that the unfortunate Ram Narayan Governor of Patna was certainly drowned here.

On the fort as it existed in 1670 see *An old description of the fort* by Mr C. E. A. W. Oldham Bengal Past and Present Vol XXVII Part II.

career and came to Monghyr to meet the saint. As soon as Shah Mustapha Sufi looked upon the saint, he became insensible, and when he revived, found himself in possession of divine secrets. He became the disciple of the Hazrat, who made him Sajjada nashin, and on his death in 1050 A. H. (1650 A. D.) he was buried in Dilawarpur where his tomb may still be seen. He was succeeded by his son Shah Sharaf-ud-din to whom Aurangzeb hearing of his holy life gave various presents and grants of land. His descendants still reside at Dilawarpur.

Three miles east of the town is a hill called Pirpahar from the top of which a fine view of the surrounding country is obtained. The hill is called after an old Muhammadan saint or *pir*, whose name is no longer remembered though devotees occasionally come to worship at his grave. There are two old tombs side by side at the foot of the hill, on one of which there is an inscription to the memory of one Mary Anne Beckett who died in 1832, while the other has a damaged inscription showing till a few years ago, that it is in memory of a person named D Oylly the portion containing the name has now disappeared. The former is somewhat unconventional in form and character consisting of a mausoleum surrounded by four walls open to the sky, and has a memorial tablet inserted in the northern wall with the uncommon and not unaffecting inscription 'Be still, she sleeps'. It is not known who Mary Anne Beckett was but several legends are current about the manner in which she met her death. One is to the effect that she was a young girl who was killed when riding down the hill another is that she threw herself down the hill owing to some love trouble while another account says that she was the Kashmirian wife of a Colonel Beckett. Nothing is known about the person to whom the other tomb was erected but Sir Warren Hastings D Oylly formerly Collector of Monghyr to whom a reference was made states that it is possible that he or she was a relative of a D Oylly who was formerly an indigo planter in the district. The inscription which is now obliterated shows that he or she died in 183— i.e. between 1830 and 1840.

On the top of the hill there is an old house which may be identified with the residence which according to the *Sair ul Mutakharin*, was erected for himself by Ghurghin Khan the Armenian general of the Nawab Kasim Ali Khan. This is referred to in the *Sair ul Mutakharin* as the house on the hill of Sitakund though the sacred springs of Sitakund are two miles away and we learn that when Vansittart the Governor of the East India Company visited Monghyr in 1762 it was assigned to him for his residence. Thirty years later it appears to have been known as Belvedere and a pleasing description of it is given by Mr Twining in *Travels in India a Hundred Years Ago*. 'Today' he writes the Commander in Chief and his party dined with General Ellerker at an elegant

mansion situated upon the summit of a hill near the river, about two miles from the fort. The name Belvedere given to this charming villa was justly deserved by the extraordinary beauty of its situation. The Ganges, escaping from the gorge on which Monghyr stands assumes the expanse of a lake, bearing on its northern extremity the picturesque battlements of the fort and bounded to the west by an amphitheatre of verdant hills. The current being thrown on the opposite side by the bastion above mentioned and by the southern angle of the fortress, all boats ascending the stream keep near the western shore, passing almost under General Ellerker's windows, while the great cotton and other boats, coming suddenly into view from behind the fort, and borne rapidly across the middle of the bay impart incessant animation to this fine river scene. Former Collectors of Monghyr resided in this house, which commands one of the finest views one can obtain along the Ganga. Both house and hill are now the property of the sons of the late Babu Upendra Nath Mandal of Chandernagore. Close by, on the summit of another small hill, is a house belonging to Babu Ram Lal Mukerji, a public spirited Bengali gentleman who placed a large sum at the disposal of Government for the relief of the distressed in times of famine and flood.

About a mile from the railway station is a shrine known as Chandisthan regarding which Buchanan quotes a legend closely resembling that already given above regarding Karnachauri. Another place of interest is a rock in the bed of the river, about half a mile off from the fort, containing a carving on stone representing two feet which are supposed to be the impression of the feet of Krishna, when he touched the rock in crossing the Ganga. The rock is submerged when the river is in flood, but comes out in winter. It is called Man pathar, and is one of a group of temple-crowned rocks cropping out from the river bed which are known as the Beacon Rocks.

Three miles south of Monghyr is a stream called the Dakra Nala where there may still be seen the massive ruins of a bridge which was blown up during his retreat by Mir Kasim Ali in 1763 in order to retard the pursuit of the British army*. Lines of earth works probably thrown up or added to by Shali Shuja extend from the bank of the Ganga to the hills near Dakra Nala and may still be traced to the south of the town. Sitakund recently renovated by Sri Sri Prakasa, now Governor of Bombay and the State Government has been referred to elsewhere.

Coming to the town its population according to 1951 census was 74 348 against 59 698 in 1872. The rise and fall of the population of Monghyr town has been discussed in a separate chapter.

There is no doubt that the ensuing 1961 census will record a larger population. With accent on the development projects by the

* A. Broome *History of the Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army* (1850) p. 390

Welfare State of Bihar there had been a large increase in the number of Government offices in the town. The Tobacco Factory in Monghyr and the Railway Workshop at Jamalpur continue to ensure a sizeable population that is engaged in these industries. The ravages of the epidemic of plague have been not known for a few decades now. The town has an important trade centre, being favourably situated for trade both by rail and river. It contains a number of Indian bankers (*Mahajans*). The State Bank of India and other banks have got full fledged branches at Monghyr. Formerly the trade was carried almost exclusively by river but the greater part has been diverted to the railway. It is connected by a short branch of the Eastern Railway loopline and by steamer ferry with the North Eastern Railway in the north of the Ganga. The details regarding the trade and commerce, communication, educational institutions and other factors in the town have been given in separate chapters.

The Municipality is run by elected executives with a Chairman and Vice Chairman at the head. The details about the Municipality will also be found elsewhere. It may be mentioned here that the bulk of the population are not rate payers and the funds of the Municipality as they are at present cannot cope with the required amenities for the town of Monghyr. This is partially responsible for an oblique growth of the town. People had built houses in a haphazard manner mostly within the limits of the Municipality and some outside. There are no specified slump areas and the palatial houses at one place may have a few slum dwellings within hundred yards. The previous beautiful townscape of Monghyr is on the decline.

The civic life of Monghyr town is not the civil life exactly throughout Bihar. There was a great change because of the earthquake popularly known as the Bihar Earthquake of 1934. The province was shaken by an earthquake with its intensity and extent as severe as any recorded in history. The shake was felt over an area of some 8 50 000 square miles in India throughout Nepal and even as far north as Lhasa and Tibet. Within the province the badly affected area comprised practically the whole of Bihar north of the Ganga and a strip of varying depth running from Arrah to Monghyr on the south. The whole of this area was not affected with equal severity and infrequently zones of great distress occurred side by side with zones where the shake was of comparatively low intensity. There were two zones of very severe intensity. The one an irregular ellipse some 6 000 square miles in extent stretching east south-east from end of Motihari to Purnea and from the Nepal border to the south of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, the other zone between Patna and Monghyr along with the stream of Ganga.

The official report of the Relief Commissioner was summarised in J. S. Wilcock's report on Bihar in 1933-34. Very serious

damage occurred to a few towns in Bihar and Monghyr was one of the worst. The main shake occurred on the 15th January at 2 13 P.M. and lasted for a period varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes in some places to 5 minutes in others. In Monghyr the shake was supposed to be for about 3 minutes. Within these few minutes a havoc had been created and the total number of deaths in Monghyr was reported to be 1260. The death roll was worse in narrow and congested bazar portions. The main bazar was reduced to a jumbled ruins of masonry in which side road and lanes were completely obliterated. Over 40 bodies were recovered from a portion of the main road only ten yards in length. The great majority of Government buildings were damaged. The clock tower on one of the gates of the fort crashed down. Many of the official residences tumbled down or were badly damaged. Very serious damage was done to the Workshop and buildings of the Railway at Jamalpur which is only 5 miles from Monghyr.

The damage to Monghyr was so intense that a telegraphic message Monghyr city is no more was flashed to Calcutta on January 18 by *Statesman* representative who made a tour of the earthquake zone. In the Appeal by the Governor of Bihar and Orissa (Sir James Sifton) for support for the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund it was mentioned — In the towns of North Bihar there is probably not one masonry house which is altogether undamaged while thousands of houses are completely destroyed with not a wall standing. In one congested bazar of Monghyr the ruin was so complete that for days it was not possible to see where the lines of the street had been amid the acres of destroyed houses. Some thousands of lives have been lost and those thousands might well have been tens of thousands if the shock had been at night instead of mid-day. The urban population affected is not less than half a million souls some of the towns having a population of from fifty to sixty thousands while altogether there were twelve towns with between ten thousand and sixty thousand inhabitants which have been wrecked. The people of these towns are for the most part camping in open spaces close to the towns in grass and bamboo sheds or other make shift shelters and must continue so to exist for months to come till money and material are made available for them to rebuild their homes. The towns people who are in the greatest distress are mostly small shopkeepers and people of the professional classes. The richer men have some reserves to fall back upon. Artisans and labourers will have work in plenty at remunerative rates. But a large majority of the middle class people who have escaped with little but their lives must have substantial help to rebuild their homes and start life again. *

* *Statesman* has kindly allowed the Editor to draw liberally from their book and also gave permission to use some of their photos published in the Earthquake Records a valuable and rarely available book (P. C. R. C.)

In the speech of Sri Nirsu Narayan Sinha, Finance Member of the Government of Bihar and Orissa in the local Legislative Council, it was mentioned — "The first thing that the District Officer saw at Monghyr after the earthquake occurred was that the Civil Surgeon's house and the jail wall had collapsed. He found that the Civil Surgeon with his wife and children had escaped and then went to find the Superintendent of Police who was injured and was being taken to hospital. At the hospital the injury cases were already coming in. Then the District Magistrate went to the Sergeant Major, saw that the armed police were mobilized and put an extra guard on the treasury. He found the main bazar in ruins and the people paralysed by the shock. He then visited the jail where he found that the jailor had had the presence of mind to secure 280 prisoners in a shed. Arrangements were made to put an armed guard on them. The available police and officers then went to help in rescue work in the town. The assistance of the staff of the Tobacco Factory was invaluable, the officers at the time were under orders of transfer, but the Company kindly agreed to postpone the date of their transfer at considerable inconvenience to themselves in order to facilitate the work of clearance.

The first task was to make a way into the main *bazar* which was badly blocked. The side roads and lanes were completely obliterated and indistinguishable in the jumbled heap of ruins. From a portion of the main road about twelve yards in length over 40 bodies were recovered. Gangs of coolies were working wherever there was a prospect of recovering living persons.

On January, the 20th, a special train sent by Messrs. Tatas as a splendid act of charity arrived with 120 tons of iron sheets, 5 trucks of rice, and mechanics and tools, and at once started putting up temporarily buildings for the hospital and other housing work. Four relief centres were organised for distribution of food, blankets etc., with medical aid attached to each. Dr. Mukherji, with the assistance of Mr. Bhude, the Town Engineer sent by Messrs. Tatas started a sanitation centre. By January 24, the Red Cross Hospital unit from Calcutta had started work.

In his article on the Reconstruction of Bihar in the Statesman Earthquake Records, Dr. Rajendra Prasad had mentioned — "It is difficult to estimate the cost of rebuilding the towns. For example, I may indicate its extent by referring to Monghyr. The population of Monghyr was 52,000 and assuming that no more than, say, 40 per cent of the population will have to be given some sort of help in rebuilding their houses, either by way of loan or gift, we shall have to assist in providing housing accommodation to something like 20,000 persons, because a large number are not in a position to rebuild their damaged or destroyed houses. Calculating five persons

some 4 000 houses and if one house costs something like, say, Rs 300 which is by no means an extravagant sum—no less than Rs 12 lakhs will be needed to meet the expenses under this head I do not include the public buildings which will have to be built by the Government, nor do I include in this estimate the cost of land which I am assuming may be available without payment of premium I have also left out of account in the estimate the well-to-do people who may be expected to rebuild their houses either with their savings or by independent borrowing There is no item of expenditure included in this for the improvement of the town It is the barest necessity of giving shelter to the homeless that has been taken into account and even that of a most simple and not very durable type When we remember that we have big towns like Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga and smaller towns like Madhubani, Samastipore, Jamal pore, Sitamarhi, Motihari, more or less in the same condition as Monghyr and a city like Patna and the towns of Chapra, Barhi, Behar, Arrah, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Purnea more or less seriously damaged and requiring rebuilding on an extensive scale though not as much as the first mentioned towns, we can form an idea of the magnitude of the cost of rebuilding the towns and the vast sums required for that purpose "

Quick measures were taken and a certain amount of normalcy was restored within a few days One of the first anxieties of Government was lest there might be outbreak of disorder and looting in the town One hundred and thirty police from Bhagalpur started for Monghyr on the 15th January some of whom arrived that day and some on the following morning On the 16th January 128 armed police were ordered to Monghyr from Barhi and the Constable Training School at Nathnagar A further large force was kept ready to move at a moment's notice This great precaution did not allow the menace of looting to mature As mentioned in the Statesman Earthquake Records partly owing to the panic and partly to the arrival of the police there was almost total absence of crime and the extra police were available for giving whatever assistance might be required On the 17th January a telegram was sent to the Military authorities asking them to despatch a party of Sappers and Miners to Monghyr to supervise the work of clearing the *bazar* A party was immediately sent from Midnapore by a special train and work of this establishment commenced in Monghyr from the 19th January The Governor was in contact with the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command and a Detachment of the territorial wing of the 11th—19th Hyderabad Regiment was despatched to Monghyr to assist in the relevant work and had subsequently relieved the police of certain guard duties The Military also provided lorries which proved invaluable in clearing the *bazar* at Monghyr They also sent a large number of tents

The various humanitarian bodies were already working in complete collaboration with the Government The Ram Krishna

Mission, the Central Relief Committee with Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the Chairman, the Red Cross Society, parties of volunteers from Calcutta sponsored by the Mayor of Calcutta who had issued an appeal and was able to raise a considerable amount of money and various other organisations were seen working to bring relief to the stricken people of the town. The publicity in the Press particularly the Calcutta Press, brought large sums of money to the Central Relief Fund.

The following extract from the Government communique issued on February 27, 1934 is of interest — "His Excellency the Governor visited Monghyr on the 22nd February, 1934. In this town the congested Chawk area had formed a death trap in which many lives were lost owing to the collapse of the high buildings on the persons collected in the narrow lanes. A decision was reached that this portion of the town could not be rebuilt in its original condition. The area will be opened up by the construction of wider roads and the displaced inhabitants accommodated on new sites in the immediate vicinity. The Committee have given half a lakh to assist in financing this measure and have further made a grant of Rs. 10,000 to enable the owners to remove their building materials from the site which has to be cleared. This decision will greatly hasten the work of reconstructing the town of Monghyr."

Regarding the medical relief work the following quotation from the Statesman Earthquake Records is of interest — As soon as it was understood in Calcutta that the earthquake had brought disaster on Bihar those in a position to do something set to work at once. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and Colonel Craddock put their heads together for St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross. Colonel K. K. Chatterji got trained men ready. Army Police and Railway helped with supplies and services and Colonel Chatterji led to Monghyr a field unit of 33 men fully equipped, resolute and competent, most of them university students in medicine and arts. He settled the unit in, set the work going and obliged to return to his professional duties in Calcutta, handed over charge to Major Marshall who remained until the unit was released from duty by the establishment of more permanent relief arrangements. Here we can say only that the unit had no lack of ghastly and difficult work to do for men, women and children and that its enthusiasm and competence were equal to all demands. Some of the 33 had to return to their duties as students, others travelling from Calcutta to relieve them in all, between January 22 when the unit left Calcutta to February 19 when it ended its labours 61 men had done service in it.

To this camp gravitated others, men and women, eager and competent to help. Within the unit, so to say, was developed a small unit of women doctors and nurses to look after the women among the sufferers, under Dr. Alice Headwards and Mrs. C. V. Smith, and

anyone who goes near Monghyr will hear glowing stories of what they did. Inevitably this band from Calcutta that looked so well supplied and gave out what it could in general as well as medical relief, was looked on by some as treasure trove or milch cow. The blankets it gave away were, some of them, found piled up in toddy shops, the naked, until they became known at sight, were clothed more often than even Bihar's chill winds justified and one baby boy was presented for clothing by six mothers in turn.

These things must be even in earthquake time. All we need say is that the patience of these devoted men and women survived this sort of strain on it, and that the work they did honours their generation. The women lived as hard as the men in canvas camp where amenities were none. They included an English nurse from Jamalpur who, herself a sufferer from the earthquake, went over every day to serve those who had suffered more and an Indian nurse who heard call at Krishnagar, went at once to Monghyr, was put in night charge of the women's ward of the camp hospital, and, writes an English woman who saw her at work, was greatly beloved by her patients."

The earthquake did some good to the town of Monghyr. Better type pucca houses were built by people of higher income group and some of the roads have been broadened and the index of urbanisation has suddenly had an impetus in the last five or six years and in spite of the economic stress more and more buildings are being added. It may, however, be mentioned that the State Government forms the largest builder now. A number of new Government buildings, offices and residences were built. The hospital has been extended, aerodrome has been built, new additions to the civil and criminal courts have been made, new constructions for the colleges have sprung up, the massive Sri Krishna Seva Sadan has been added and so on. In a way a new look has been given to the town. This, however, has been a strain on the local municipality and most of the roads have been neglected and are fast deteriorating. The conservancy arrangement is far from satisfactory. The pipe water supply is inadequate. Monghyr which was once a health resort has occasional outbreaks of cholera and other diseases. The ghats which were once a place for a visit are deteriorating. The once well maintained municipal park within the fort area is losing its previous elegance. There has been an enormous increase in the population of the town and a consequent mounting housing difficulty. This has been responsible for the deterioration of the public health and conservancy. The problem has been receiving attention from the authorities and in spite of the handicaps it is expected that there will be an improvement soon. The comparative better outlook of Jamalpur within five miles of Monghyr is in a pleasing contrast.

In the Chapter under 'Education and Culture' some descriptions have been given of the temples, mosques and churches. There

are two Christian cemeteries in Monghyr which are well worth a visit to appreciate the contribution of the Europeans and Indian Christians towards the civic and cultural development of the town. The Christians and particularly the European families in Monghyr town who have almost disappeared never remained as an isolated group. Along with the Hindu and Muslim brethren the Christians also spent their money for building a better Monghyr.

In the *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* by L. S. S. O Malley (1909) it was mentioned. The Baptist Mission is said to have been established at Monghyr in 1816 and the translation of the Hindi New Testament at present in use is the work of one of the Monghyr Missionaries. This matter was investigated with a view to establish whether the Hindi translation of the New Testament done by a Monghyr Missionary is the first in the field or not. An unconfirmed report is that the first translation of the New Testament was done at Srirampur near Calcutta by Carey and had to be abandoned. Catalogues of the Hindi, Punjabi, Sindhi and Pushtu Printed Books in the Library of the British Museum, prepared by Blumhardt and published from London in 1893 have an entry for a Hindi translation of the New Testament by the Baptist Missionaries headed by A. Leslie in collaboration with native assistants. This translation was published from Calcutta in 1848. At page 24 of Rev B. H. Badley's *Indian Missionary Directory and Memorial Volume* rev. ed. Lucknow, 1881 (available in the National Library) there is a reference to one Baptist Missionary named Andrew Leslie who came to India in 1824, was stationed at Monghyr and died in 1870. Incidentally it may be stated that another Baptist Missionary bearing the name John Parsons who was associated with the work of Hindi translation of the New Testament came to India in 1840, was stationed at Monghyr and died in 1869 (vide Rev B. H. Badley's *Indian Missionary Directory and Memorial volume*, rev. ed. Lucknow, 1881—pages 13 and 25). The cemetery towards Sitakund has the grave of the Rev John Parsons and it is mentioned on the grave that he had made the Hindi translation of the New Testament. Rev John Parsons was born at Loparton, Somerset (England) and died at Monghyr in 1869. This will rather indicate that it was probably Parsons and not A. Leslie who made the first Hindi translation of the New Testament which is in use.

Incidentally this cemetery has the grave of Herschell Dear, born at Dobrzyou (Russian Poland) who spent most of his life in Monghyr. He died in October, 1887 at Mussoorie but his remains were brought and reburied at Monghyr. References to Dear's large charities have already been mentioned. The cemetery has also the grave of Major General Charles Murray. Born in London in 1827, he had served in Gwalior campaign (1843-44), Punjab campaign (1848-49), battle of Chillianwalla, Kohat expedition (1850), insurrection of 1857 and Bhootan War. Charles Murray was a resident

in Monghyr from 1871 and till his death at Monghyr in 1893 he was devoted to the civil interests of the town. Dear and Murray contributed largely to the development of Monghyr.

An interesting account of early Monghyr had been left by Edward Lockwood, a former District Magistrate of Monghyr in his *Natural History Sport and Travel* (1878), a copy of which with brittle pages is available in National Library, Calcutta. Lockwood has given a pen picture of the people, famine of 1873-74, food products, plants, birds, insects, landscape, roads, etc. He had compared Monghyr with Birmingham.

Monghyr with her tradition and culture of centuries has a future particularly when the Barauni area will be developed industrially.*

* For further account of Monghyr District and Monghyr town please see —

- (i) F Buchanan's Account of Bhagalpur, 1810-11 (Bihar Research Society, Patna)
- (ii) Hunter's Statistical Account of Monghyr, 1877
- (iii) The Mahua Tree in Monghyr, Statistical Reporter, December, 1875
- (iv) The Natural Productions of the Monghyr District North of the Ganges Statistical Reporter, March, 1876.
- (v) The Forest and Flora of Monghyr, Statistical Reporter, March, 1887
- (vi) An old Description of the Monghyr Fort by O E A W Oldham in Bengal Past and Present, Vol XXVII
- (vii) S C. Grier's—The letters of W Hastings to his wife, 1905
- (viii) Final Report of Last Survey and Settlement Operations, Monghyr
- (ix) A Monograph on the Iron and Steel Work in the Province of Bengal (1907) by E. R. Watson
- (x) A Monograph on Gold and Silver Work in the Bengal Presidency (1905) by D N. Mukerji
- (xi) Monograph on Wood Carving in Bengal (1903) by C O Ghilardi
- (xii) The Good Old Days of Hon'ble John Company (Reprint 1906) Vol I and II
- (xiii) The Kurrupur Hills by J A S B., Vol XXI
- (xiv) Up the Country, by Emily Eden
- (xv) Bengal Past and Present Vol II October, 1908 pp 524—525
- (xvi) Bengal Past and Present Vol XXVII Part II
- (xvii) Morden Wilson—History of Bihar, 1905
- (xviii) Sri Krishna Abhinandan Granth (Sri Krishna Seva Sadan Monghyr)
- (xix) "Armenians in India" by Mesroob Jacob Seth (Calcutta)

APPENDIX I

MONOHYR MUNICIPALITY.

Receipts.

Heads of receipt	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959 60
	Rs	Rs	Rs.
Municipal rates and taxes ..	4,49,952	4,16,320	3,59,613
Realisation under Special Act ..	15,657	17,431	16,857
Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation.	16,444	47,426	46,344
Grants and contribution for general and special purposes	7,89,269	5,64,130	15,86,986
Miscellaneous	72,405	90,257	58,152
Extraordinary .. .	60,201	3,66,709	6,22,254
Total ..	14,03,928	15,02,273	26,69,206

Expenditure

Heads of expenditure	1957-58.	1958 59.	1959 60
	Rs	Rs	Rs.
General Administration and collection charges	36,393	38,499	47,611
Public safety	13,985	23,681	17,582
Public health and convenience..	9,73,342	10,30,322	11,03,786
Public instruction .. .	1,29,123	1,77,931	2,06,552
Contribution for general purposes		..	..
Miscellaneous . ..	43,161	57,208	17,310
Extraordinary and debts ..	1,68,153	1,44,755	1,76,844
Total ..	13,64,757	14,42,486	5,69,685

[See text on Local Self-Government at page 335]

APPENDIX II*

DISTRICT BOARD, MONCHYR

Year	Total Revenue	Total expenditure.	Total expenditure on education	Total expenditure on medical health	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Rs</i>	<i>Rs</i>	<i>Rs</i>	<i>Rs</i>	
1957 58	19,24,338	15,15,733	2,847	2,14,475	
1958 59	17,05,822	13,09,687	5,472	2,14,029	
1959 60	18,51,708	13,52,815	11,201	2,09,548	

*Please see text on Local Self Government at page 344.

APPENDIX III

*List of Blocks and Anchals with location**General Administration Chapter*

Serial no	Name of the subdivision	Name of Block cum Anchal	Name of the Anchal	Location
1	2	3	4	5
1	Sadar	Muffasil		Baghwa Fulwari
2	Do	Kharagpur		Kharagpur
3	Do	Tarapur		Tarapur
4	Do	Sangrampur		Sangrampur
5	Do	Sheikhpura		Sheikhpura
6	Do	Barbigha		Barbigha
7	Do	Ariari		Hussainabad
8	Do		Jamalpur	Piperpanti
9	Do		Tagged Dharhara	Ditto
10	Do		Lakhsirai	Lakhsirai
11	Do		Tagged Barh	Ditto
12	Do		Surjgarha	Surjgarha
1	Jamui	Lakshmipur		Lakshmipur
2	Do	Sono		Sono
3	Do	Chakri		Chakri
4	Do	Halsi		Halsi
5	Do		Jamui	Jamui
6	Do		Tagged Khura	Do
7	Do		Jhajha	Jhajha
8	Do		Sikander	Sikander
1	Khagaria	Parbatta		Parbatta
2	Ditto	Gogari		Gogari
3	Ditto	Choutham		Choutham
4	Ditto	Beldaur		Beldaur
5	Ditto	Alauli		Alauli
6	Ditto		Khagaria	Khagaria
7	Ditto		S. Bakhtapur	S. Bakhtapur
8	Ditto		Tagged Kojaria	Ditto

Serial no	Name of the subdivision	Name of Block <i>cum</i> Anchal	Name of the Anchal	Location
1	2	3	4	5
1	Begusarai	Sahebpur Kamal		Sahebpur Kamal
2	Ditto	Baha		Baha
3	Ditto	Bakhri		Bakhri
4	Ditto	Cheriabariarpur		Cheriabariarpur
5	Ditto	Khodawanpur		Khodawanpur
6	Ditto	Bhagwanpur		Bhagwanpur
7	Ditto		Begusarai	Begusarai
8	Ditto		Chhetror	Chhetroi
9	Ditto		Teghra	Teghra
10	Ditto		Tagged Baraouni	Ditto
11	Ditto		Bachhwara	Bachhwara

All the Anchal centres are likely to be upgraded into Blocks in the course of two or three years

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1 Dancing Ganesh (Birpur)



3 Vishnu—No 2(A) No 2(B), (Birpur)



4 Narasimha (Birpur)

